

A
Harriot Book

LITURGY,

FOR THE USE OF

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

CHURCHES.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER

OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY G. & D. BILLMEYER.

1814.

14810

CONTENTS.

SECT. I. TWO Forms of Confession of Sin,
and two other Introductory Prayers.

II. Eight general Prayers.

N.B. If any of these prayers should be considered too long, to be used at once, it may be easily divided into two parts:— the first to be used before, and the second after sermon.

III. Four Prayers after sermon.

IV. Scriptural Benedictions for the conclusion of public worship.

V. A table of the selections from the Scriptures, commonly called “the gospels and epistles.”

VI. The Ministration of Baptism to infants.

VII. The Ministration of Baptism to such as are of riper years.

VIII. The Order of Confirmation.

IX. Order of the service preparatory to the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

X. The Administration of the Lord's Supper.

XI. A Form for the Inauguration of the ruling officers of a Congregation.

XII. The Solemnization of Matrimony.

XIII. The Burial of the Dead.

L

BX8067

A3E96

1814

A LITURGY, &c.

SECTION I.

*TWO FORMS OF CONFESSION OF SIN,
and TWO OTHER PRAYERS, proper to be
used in the Morning-Service, immediately after
its introduction by the singing of a hymn.*

I.

DEARLY beloved, the holy scriptures declare, that, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. The sacrifices of God are a broken and a contrite heart. To the Lord belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. Let us, therefore, arise, and confess our sins unto our Father, with sincere, humble and obedient hearts, that we may obtain remission of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Almighty and most merciful Father, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires are known, all whose commandments are just, necessary, and good! we confess unto thee, that we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things, which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

4 INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS.

But enter not, we beseech thee, into judgment with us; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. As thou hatest nothing which thou hast made, and desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live,—have mercy, O Lord, upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are truly penitent, according to thy gracious promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name, through thy blessed Son, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

2.

DEARLY beloved, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess (and forsake) our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Encouraged by this merciful assurance of his word, let us renounce every evil thought and way, and with penitent and humble hearts implore the forgiveness of all our transgressions.

Holy, holy, holy art thou, Lord God Almighty, the merciful Ruler, the righteous Judge of all thine intelligent creatures in heaven and on earth! Thou dwellest in a light unto which no man can approach, and canst not look with pleasure upon sin. We confess unto thee, the Searcher of hearts, that we are justly chargeable with numerous transgressions and omissions of duty. We acknowledge with sorrow and repentance, that we have been unmindful of thy goodness and disobedient to thy laws, that we have cherished evil dispositions,

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS.

5

inordinate affections, and sinful passions; and that we have rendered ourselves obnoxious to thy displeasure, and deserving of the punishments due to the guilty. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee; but unto us shame and confusion of face. Our only hope is in thy tender mercy; and we praise thee, that thou hast graciously revealed to us thy readiness to receive into favour all who cease to do evil and learn to do well. In the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent into the world to save us from our sins and miseries, we implore the forgiveness of all our offences; seriously renouncing whatever is contrary to thy will, and sincerely resolving to follow after holiness of heart and life. Vouchsafe to direct and assist us by thy Spirit, in carrying these purposes into effect. And grant, O thou God of compassion, that our hearts may be established in the love and fear of thee, in a cheering sense of thy goodness, and in a joyful hope of everlasting life and happiness, through the mediation of our crucified and exalted Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

3.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art the author of every good and perfect gift; what fervent gratitude do we owe to thee for the privilege of assembling together in thy house, of holding communion with thee, of confirming our faith in thy blessed Son, and of nourishing our souls with the bread of eternal life! How rich is the provision, which thou hast been pleased to make for the supply of all our spiritual wants! Accept, we beseech thee, the thankful acknowledgements of our hearts for the ordinances of thy gospel, and for the institution of this day of sacred rest; and enable us to

make a wise and a profitable use of them. Assist us to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Dispose us so to understand, to recollect, and to apply the discoveries and precepts of thy word, that we may perfectly love and serve thee, and cordially confide in thy government and promises. Grant, especially, that the serious remembrance of the triumphant resurrection of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, of which we are reminded this day, may animate us to the steadfast profession of his name, raise our affections and wishes to the things which are above, incite us to follow him in his holy and benevolent life, and fill us with joy, peace, and hope in believing.— Save now, O Lord, we beseech thee. In thee do we put our trust: let us never be ashamed. Amen.

4.

O Thou ever-blessed and most glorious God, who art the object of supreme veneration, on whom all the families of the earth continually depend! we, thine unworthy servants, would come before thee with reverence and thanksgiving. We esteem it good for us to draw near unto thee, and we desire to serve thee with filial joy and godly fear. May the various exercises, in which we engage, be acceptable in thy sight and be accompanied with thy blessing. May we celebrate thy praises with understanding and devotion; and to remember thy great goodness to us and to all men, that we may be inclined to love thee and to cherish good will towards one another. May we confess our sins unto thee with unfeigned sorrow and steadfast purposes of amendment. May we offer up our supplications with humble confidence in thy wisdom and kindness. May our intercessions be accompanied with upright charity towards all mankind. May we receive in-

GENERAL PRAYERS.

struction with attention, candour, and meekness; lay it up in our hearts, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness in our lives. May no vain thoughts distract our minds, no unworthy object withdraw our affections. May we so carefully improve all the means of religion, that we may grow wiser and better; be gradually trained up for thy heavenly kingdom; and at last be made partakers of that happiness, which eye hath not seen, which ear hath not heard, and which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive, through the riches of thy redeeming grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

N. B. The following portions of scripture may also be used with great propriety, for the introduction of public worship: viz. Psalm XVII. XIX. XXVII. LXVII. LXXXIV. XCVIII. CIII. CXLV.

SECTION II.

EIGHT GENERAL PRAYERS, proper to be used in public worship.

1.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, we desire to lift up our hearts unto thee, the hearer of prayer, from whom alone cometh our help. We adore thee as the great Parent of the Universe, from whom all things proceed, and on whom all creatures depend. Thou art worthy of all possible veneration, gratitude, and obedience. Thou art the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thou alone hast immortality, and art unchangeable in wisdom and holiness. Thy truth endureth to all generations; thy mercy is

B

from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear thee; and thy righteousness unto children's children.—We thine unworthy servants would give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee to give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise not only with our lips, but in our lives. Grant, that we may devote ourselves to thy service, and walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Enable us to cherish and to exercise habitually every pious and virtuous affection; that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of thy favour, be sustained and comforted under the troubles of this life, and finally be received into thine everlasting kingdom, through thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Thou hast directed us, almighty God, to offer up our supplications for all our fellowmen. We humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, the saving gospel of thy Son unto all nations; that idolatry, superstition, and vice may be banished from the earth; and that war, oppression, and injustice, may for ever cease. We pray, that the church of Jesus throughout the world may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all, who profess themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. We commend to thy fatherly goodness all those, who are afflicted or distressed

GENERAL PRAYERS.

9

in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

We implore thy heavenly blessing especially upon the land, in which we live. Give success, we pray thee, to the lawful and virtuous labours of its inhabitants; and provide the necessary supplies for all their wants. Behold with thy favour the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and all who are invested with legislative, judicial, or executive authority; and so replenish them with thy grace, that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way, and be enabled to promote and secure the national peace, liberty, safety, and prosperity. Send down upon all ministers of the gospel and upon all congregations committed to their charge the needful spirit of thy grace, that they may truly please thee; and give such efficacy to the means of education with which thou hast furnished us, that we may become a wise and righteous people, whom thou wilt delight to protect and favour.

Hear us, most merciful God, we beseech thee, in these our supplications and intercessions, which we offer up unto thee as disciples of thy Son; and pardon and accept us, through him, now and evermore. Amen.

2.

GLORY and honour be unto thee, the self-existent and infinite Jehovah, who art and wast, and shalt be from eternity to eternity! Adoration and praise be unto thee, the omnipotent, all-wise, all-gracious Being, who fillest the heavens and the earth with thy presence and thy love!

Glory and honour be unto thee, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, the Father and the Friend of the sons of men : Thou hast formed us after thine own image, made us intelligent, free, and immortal spirits, and raised us to the dignity of thy children and worshippers. Thou bestowest upon us, each returning day, invaluable mercies and blessings both for our bodies and our souls ; and thou art preparing us for vastly higher satisfactions in a better world.

Adoration and praise be unto thee, the Father of compassion, the God of all consolation and grace in Christ Jesus our Lord ! Thou hast pitied our sinful and wretched race, and given us a Redeemer who is able to save unto the uttermost. By the doctrines, the death, and the resurrection of thy Son, thou hast revealed to us thy character and will, conferred on us the strongest assurance and pledge of thy mercy, enriched us with comfort under all our trials and distresses, encouraged and enabled us to prove faithful to duty, delivered us from the fear of death and of hell, and set before us the path of life and pleasures at thy right hand for evermore.

Almighty God, how shall words express the grandeur of thy majesty, and the magnitude and extent of thy grace ! We would bow down with the profoundest veneration, and worship thee as the first, the best, the most perfect of all beings. We contemplate with amazement the immeasurable distance between thee and us thy frail and guilty creatures ; and rejoice, that, though thou art infinitely exalted, thou deignest to exercise such condescension and clemency towards us. To thee all our homage, affection, and submission are due. To praise and adore thee be our delightful and eternal employment, and that of all our brethren !

Merciful Parent of the human family, enable us to live under an habitual sense of the relation which we sustain towards thee. May the recollection of thy greatness ever inspire us with reverence, and the remembrance of thy mercy lead us to consecrate our bodies and our souls as a living sacrifice unto thee. May a cheerful and universal obedience ever prove our gratitude, and a patient submission to the afflictions we may encounter evince our trust. May we ever rejoice in Jesus Christ as the Captain of our salvation, open our hearts to all his discoveries and commandments, make them the only rule of our faith and practice, aim continually at an increasing resemblance of his divine dispositions and virtues, and rely with immoveable confidence upon the precious promises which he sealed with his blood. By the influence of his holy gospel, may we pass with usefulness and comfort through all the vicissitudes of this transitory state, and become qualified for an entrance into that world, where all his followers shall behold him face to face.

These blessings, which we supplicate for ourselves, we beseech thee, heavenly Father, to extend to the whole family of man. Increase the number of those, who adore thee with holy joy and with a Christian temper and life. Multiply the triumphs of truth over error, of righteousness over iniquity, of a filial spirit of love over servile terrors and gloomy fears. In all the habitations of men, from the rising unto the going down of the sun, may the incense of acceptable praise and the pure offering of a virtuous life be presented unto thee.

Endow all those, who are appointed to rule over their fellowmen, with a superior measure of wisdom and benevolence; and inspire all instructors of youth and all teachers of religion with an ardent concern to promote the welfare of those with whom they are connected. Enlighten and direct thy ser-

vants to whom the administration of our government is committed, and all who are empowered to enact and to execute our laws, in fulfilling their arduous and important duties. Grant that all the inhabitants of our land may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Vouchsafe to preserve to us our civil and religious rights, to protect us from the horrors of war and other public calamities, to bless us with healthy and fruitful seasons, and to prosper our agriculture, commerce, and manufactures.

Have mercy, gracious God, upon all communities or individuals, who are oppressed by injustice and tyranny; who are flying from the sword of their enemies; who are suffering the desolation of famine or pestilence; who are bowed down by sickness or poverty; or who are exposed to any other necessities and dangers. Prevent them, we pray thee, from being overwhelmed by such visitations, and from sinking into despair. Raise up to them friends, and send them relief in their distresses; and cause the rough and thorny path of affliction to become to them the path to perfection and bliss.— Let thy consolations cheer and support, especially, our mourning and distressed brethren, who are united with this religious society, or for whom our prayers have been desired. Alleviate their pains, both of body and mind. Deliver them from all their sorrows, if this be agreeable to thy holy will, or enable them to suffer with pious resignation and hope; and let them find by happy experience, that it was good for them to be afflicted.

And now unto thee, who art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages. Amen.

3.

GREAT art thou, O God, and greatly to be praised; worthy to be had in reverence by all the children of men! We worship thee as the Creator and Governor of all things visible and invisible. Thou livest and reignest, unchangeably the same, without beginning of days or end of years. Thou art present at all times in every part of thy dominion; the universe is thy temple; thine is the majesty, and the power, and the glory. Thou art perfect in wisdom, wonderful in counsel, holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy works. Thy faithfulness endureth for ever, and justice and judgment are the foundation of thy throne. Thou art good, and thou doest good continually; the earth is full of thy riches; and every blessing and advantage cometh down from thee.

We thank thee, O thou Father of lights, for the innumerable mercies which thou hast bestowed upon us. We thank thee for the gift of life; for the wise and useful frame of our bodies; and for the nobler powers of our minds, by which we are enabled to attain to the knowledge and love of thee. We thank thee, that thou hast implanted in us a sense of good and evil, and the affections of benevolence and compassion. We thank thee for the continual preservation of our being, and confess, that food and raiment, that health and joy and all our outward possessions are the gifts of thy bounty, and that the blessings of friendship, freedom, and equal government, are thy benevolent appointment.

We thank thee, that thy goodness is not confined to the present world, but that thou art training us up for everlasting life by thy Providence and grace. We thank thee for the instructions and examples of the wise and the good, and for every

opportunity of cultivating knowledge and virtue. But above all, we praise and magnify thee for the rich display of thy love in the manifestation of thy Son Jesus Christ. We acknowledge with the highest gratitude, that by him thou hast given us thy heavenly truth to enlighten our minds and to sanctify our hearts; and that in his life thou hast set before us a model of the most exalted goodness, to encourage and animate our upright endeavours to serve thee. We bless thee for the promises of mercy and forgiveness, and for the hopes of immortality, which are confirmed to us in his gospel. We rejoice, that, after he had suffered death upon the cross for the reconciliation of our souls to thee, he was raised up from the grave, and became the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.

But, whilst we bless *thee*, Almighty God, for thy goodness and thy wonderful works; we are humbled by the thought of *our* ingratitude and unworthiness. We lament before thee, that we have not duly hearkened to the voice of thy word, nor been as sensible of thy clemency and compassion as it behoved us to be. We have been guilty of many errors and transgressions, and negligent in the government of our hearts and the direction of our conduct. We have exposed ourselves to thy righteous displeasure; and would bow down before thy throne, imploring thy pardon. O God, have mercy upon the works of thy hand, and forgive and accept thy people, according to the covenant of thy grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. As it is the desire of our hearts to return to the path of obedience, enable us, we beseech thee, by the assistance of thy holy Spirit, to correct whatever is wrong in our tempers and behaviour, and to delight in the practice of every thing good and virtuous. Endow us with an active principle of

humble and joyful piety, with a supreme love and a constant regard to thee, with a prevailing disposition to do unto all men as we would that they should do unto us, with a solicitude to approve ourselves to thee the unerring judge by pure affections and by a watchful care over our thoughts and passions. Assist us to become and to continue the faithful disciples of thy Son, to glory in his cross and triumph, and to demonstrate our attachment and devotedness to him by promoting the success of his gospel with all our power, and by causing the light of a good example to shine before others. And, while we pray thee, merciful Father, to defend us from every real evil, and to confer upon us whatever is needful for our bodies and our souls; we would desire to submit ourselves perfectly to the disposal of thy wisdom. Through whatever changes we may be conducted by thy Providence, help us to improve them to thy glory; that we may be finally admitted into those everlasting habitations, which thou hast graciously promised to thy faithful servants by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, thou wilt have all men to be saved and to be brought unto the knowledge of the truth. Enlarge, we beseech thee, the kingdom of thy Son, and give him the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Put an end to all falsehood in religion and all wickedness of life. Grant, that pure and uncorrupted Christianity may prevail, that all its professors may walk worthy of their high calling, that persecution may for ever cease, and righteousness, peace, and charity everywhere abound.

Father of mercies, look down with favour upon these United States of America. Enable the President, and all others in authority, to discharge the

duties of their stations with wisdom, and integrity, as men who are responsible to thee. Cause a speedy and effectual stop to be put to the progress of immorality and profaneness; that, on the lasting basis of public virtue, the public happiness may be established, and our liberties be preserved and handed down inviolate to the latest posterity. Crown the year with thy goodness; help all thy people to live in concord and harmony; and let all our churches and schools be monuments of thy love.

Extend thy pity, in particular, we pray thee, to all the sons and daughters of sorrow. Be thou a father to the fatherless, and the defender of the widow. Provide for the poor; give health to the sick; comfort those who mourn; support such as suffer for righteousness sake; prepare the dying for their removal from this probationary state; and deliver the nations from all the evil effects of ambition, avarice, anarchy, violence, and contention.

Hear us, O God of mercy, in these our supplications, which we offer up in the name and as the disciples of thy Son. And unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb that was slain, be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.

4.

SUPREMELY exalted and adorable Jehovah, whom angels and archangels delight to worship, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain! behold in mercy thy servants and children, who come before thee with the voice of prayer and of praise. We bow down before thee, the self-existent and eternal Being, and rejoice in the revelation which thou hast been pleased to make of thy character and will. Thou hast formed the heavens with all their hosts, the earth and all that dwell therein. Thou preser-

vest universal nature in existence, maintainest the beauty and order of thy works, and disposest all things by counsels which cannot err. All creatures are entirely dependent upon thee, and thou assignest to each his proper station and duty. Thy Providence is perfect ; thy government is righteous ; all thy commandments are equitable, pure, and good. Unto thee alone, the blessed and supreme Potentate, is unlimited submission due.

We venerate, O God, thine almighty power, thine unspotted sanctity, and thine unbounded wisdom ; but we would especially acknowledge thine infinite and everlasting goodness. Thou art the fountain of happiness, and thou diffusest blessings innumerable throughout thy creation. Thou art the Father of our spirits, and the Former of our bodies. Thou hast exercised a gracious care over us from the first moment of our existence, supplied our wants, and provided for us many enjoyments. We thank thee for all the mercies of our outward condition, and for all the satisfactions of society and friendship. We thank thee for understanding and knowledge, for the capacity of making improvement in religion and virtue, and for all our opportunities and means to attain true happiness. We thank thee, above all, that thou hast sent thine only-begotten Son, to save us from ignorance and fear, to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. We thank thee, that thou wast in him reconciling the world unto thyself, that he gave himself for us and suffered the painful death of the cross for our souls, and that through him we receive remission of sin. We thank thee, that, by his glorious resurrection and ascension, he has brought life and immortality to light ; that he has opened before us the solemnities of a future judgment, and displayed to us the mansions of the spirits of just men made perfect.

What is man, O God, that thou art so mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him thus? How good art thou to the evil and unthankful! and yet how often have we offended against thy rich and unspeakable grace, and slighted that long-suffering and forbearance which should have led us to repentance! how many are the occasions, on which we have felt and acted inconsistently with the character which we are required to bear, the great example which is set before us, and the sure and precious promises to which we are called!— But suffer us not, O Lord, to perish in our transgressions; deliver us from the dominion of them in the time to come. Enable us to live according to the profession which we make, and the desires which we now express before thee. Give us such a deep persuasion of the evil of sin, and of the importance and necessity of a holy heart and life, that we may carefully abstain from all impiety and unrighteousness. Let the grace and mercy which thou hast shewn unto us in Jesus Christ our Lord, excite in us due returns of love and obedience; and constrain us to exercise sincere kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness to all our brethren. Let the remembrance of death, judgment, and eternity, effectually lead us to purify our minds, to imitate the pattern of our blessed Master, and never to be weary in well-doing. Let the assurances and pledges, which thou hast given us of thy love to all thy upright and faithful children, fill our hearts with joyful hope and with a firm reliance upon thy divine assistance. Safe under thy protection, and happy in thy favour, may we cheerfully follow where thou plearest to conduct us, desire only what thou shalt see fit to give us, and endure with fortitude the trials which thou shalt appoint for us. In health and in sickness, in life and in death, may we lift up our souls unto thee, and

make thy goodness and mercy in the Mediator of our race our only confidence and joy. And having lived, by thy grace, in a state of continual improvement and preparation for thy heavenly kingdom, may we finally be received into the same, to the praise and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who art the Father of all mankind, fill the minds of thy reasonable creatures, we beseech thee, with the knowledge of thy truth, and deliver them from every evil affection. Cause the gospel of thy Son to prevail through the world, to enter the hearts and govern the lives of all its inhabitants, and to make all nations righteous and happy. Reform the disorders, which arise from the evil passions of men; and prosper the just designs of all who delight in peace. Grant, that the blessings of free and equal government may become universal, the advantages of civil society be widely extended, the best interests of every community be fully secured, and all thy children be united in the praise of thee and the love of one another.

We commit to thee, our righteous Governor, all the important concerns of our country. We pray, that we may live in safety, and enjoy thy blessings in tranquillity and peace; that we may escape the destructive evils, which thou hast appointed for wicked nations; and that religion and virtue may so prevail among us, that our privileges may be transmitted to succeeding ages. Be pleased to give us the fruits of the earth in their seasons, and to bless all orders of men in the diligent discharge of their respective duties. Give success to all the means employed among us for instructing the young, for reclaiming the vicious, and for establishing the well-disposed. Enlighten, direct, and prosper the President of the United States, and all who are

invested with authority. May they be men fearing thee, and hating covetousness and all manner of iniquity; may all their power and influence be exerted for the promotion of the welfare of the people, and the advancement of thy glory; and, under their government, may justice and judgment be impartially administered.

Finally, we beseech thee, O God of mercy, to extend thy favourable regard to all our brethren who are in affliction. May thy wisdom be their direction, thy power their support, thy goodness their confidence. By patience and a serious improvement of their sufferings, may they be prepared for unmixed happiness in that better world, where all thy ways will be completely justified, and everlasting praise will ascend to thy throne.

And unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, be all honour and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer, now and evermore. Amen.

5.

ETERNAL and most merciful God, unto whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets can be hid! we would raise our thoughts and affections to thee, as the greatest and the best of beings, the object of supreme veneration, the high and mighty Ruler of the Universe. The heavens are thy throne, the earth is thy foot-stool. Honour and majesty are before thee; strength and beauty are in thy sanctuary; holiness becometh thine house for ever. Powerful is thine arm; unsearchable are thy judgments; righteous is thy reign; with thee there is no respect of persons. Thy wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and wickedness; thy mercy is sure to every humble and peni-

tent soul; thy counsels are counsels of peace, and not of evil. We address ourselves to thee as dependant, frail, and guilty creatures, who cannot exist without thy support, who cannot be happy without thy love. We acknowledge, that all our faculties are the work of thy hand, that all our outward advantages and enjoyments are the gifts of thy Providence, that all our consolation and improvement flow from thy grace. We bless thee for all those satisfactions and comforts, which have sustained, cheered, and gladdened us in every stage of our pilgrimage. We praise thee, that we are made but a little lower than the angels, and formed with capacities to know, to love, and to rejoice in thee for ever. We thank thee, above all, for the mission of thy beloved Son, for redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, for the possession of his precious gospel, for the privilege of freely enquiring into its meaning, and for the liberty of openly professing our faith. What everlasting gratitude is due to thee, that his doctrines perfectly enlighten the human mind, that his precepts clearly point out to us the path of duty, that his example incites and encourages our works of love, that his death speaks peace and joy to the upright believer, that his resurrection from the grave establishes our confidence in him as our divine Mediator and Redeemer, and that his ascension to glory enlivens our best and dearest hopes!

O God! accept, we beseech thee, the expressions of our thankfulness for these inestimable mercies. Pardon, of thine infinite goodness, whatever of lukewarmness and disobedience thy pure eyes have seen in our minds and in our lives. Give us grace to make a diligent and faithful use of every talent committed to our care. Vouchsafe to direct us in all our religious enquiries. Help us to shun

all presumption, and to maintain a humble and teachable disposition. Preserve us from those prejudices which pervert the judgment, from those passions which debase the understanding, from those mistakes which weaken the principles and obstruct the practice of Christian virtue, from those superstitious imaginations and fears which betray men into dishonourable and unworthy conceptions of thee. Assist us to know thee more and more perfectly, to understand thy will and our exalted destination, to make thee the object of our highest confidence, reverence and joy, to love thee with all our souls, and to walk with circumspection and alacrity according to thy holy commandments. May we daily learn more of that Saviour who was meek and lowly in heart, take his yoke upon us, and find his promised rest and peace. May our faith in him continually grow stronger and more efficacious, and that same mind and spirit be in us which was in him. May his gospel be completely successful in correcting our errors, in forming within us the amiable graces of the Christian character, in supporting us under the difficulties and sufferings of this transitory life, and in preparing us for the glory which is about to be revealed. Having lived as his true followers, may the remembrance of his crucifixion and triumph banish every fear from our bosoms in the hour of death. And, in the day of judgment, may thy grace give us the portion of those, to whom our Lord shall say: "come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Almighty God, thou desirest not the destruction of any, but hast loved the whole world and given thy Son to taste death for every man. O grant, we beseech thee, that all the children of Adam may rejoice in the light of his gospel, and experience

the invaluable blessings, which are bestowed upon us through his mediation. Be pleased so to direct the affairs of this world, and to smile upon all proper means for the advancement of thy kingdom, the kingdom of truth, purity, and righteousness, that it may soon be completely and universally established. Put an end, we pray thee, to tyranny and violence, to the desructive schemes of ungodly ambition, to the effusion of human blood, and to the unnatural devastations and calamities of war. Dispose all, who bear the name of thy Son, to speak the truth in love, to honour each other, and to live as brethren. And let every plant, which thou, our heavenly Father, hast not planted, be rooted up.

We pray for the various tribes of the human family. May it please thee to favour all virtuous and pious communities with thy special protection, and to employ all the methods of thy government for the reformation of such as are vicious and corrupt.

We implore thy blessing, especially, upon the land in which we live. Pour out upon us, O God, a spirit of repentance and reformation of all our national sins. Grant, that our civil and religious liberties may be secured and preserved, and that our public counsels, founded upon truth and righteousness, may be crowned with success. May all our magistrates, judges, and rulers, be inspired with wisdom and energy, with a love of justice, with a zeal for religion, and with a generous concern for the happiness of the people. May all the ministers of thy word be found faithful, helpers of the joy of their fellow-Christians, not lords over thine heritage, but ensamples to the flock. May it please thee to smile upon the useful labours of the various classes of our citizens, to give us the fruits of the earth, and to preserve us from the horrors of

war, of famine, of pestilence, of conflagrations, and other public calamities. Or, shouldst thou, in thine infinite wisdom, visit us with such chastisements; grant, we beseech thee, that they may not terminate in our destruction, but cooperate with all other events for our improvement and everlasting felicity.

We pray thee, O thou God of compassion! to have mercy upon the sons and daughters of affliction. Ease the pained, restore the sick, strengthen the feeble, support the aged, assist the tempted, satisfy the doubting, feed the poor with bread, plead the cause of the oppressed and persecuted. Preserve those who travel by land or water; show pity upon prisoners and captives; do thou, the Father of the fatherless, the widow's God, bind up the broken-hearted, and comfort those that mourn. Turn the wicked from every evil way; let one spirit, the spirit of harmony, piety, love, and joy, be diffused over thy creation; and raise all men to those pure and endless pleasures, which are found at thy right hand.

And now to thee, O God, who hast created us, to thee who hast redeemed us, to thee who art sanctifying the hearts of thy faithful servants, be everlasting honour and glory. Amen.

6.

INFINITE and incomprehensible Jehovah, whom angels and archangels delight to worship, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain: we look up unto thy throne with a deep conviction, that it is our duty to acknowledge thee in all our ways, and devoutly to offer unto thee our thanks and prayers. We praise thee that thou hast been pleased to furnish us with all things necessary to life and godli-

ness in the doctrines of thy holy gospel; and we would implore thy gracious assistance, to enable us to walk worthy of our high vocation.

Thou hast revealed thyself to us as the Creator and Ruler of heaven and of earth, in whom we and all other beings live and move, and in whose hands our times and our fates are reposed.— Help us, therefore, to venerate thee with the deepest humility, to be always sensible of thy majesty and power, to subject ourselves to thee with obedient hearts, to remember our entire dependance upon thy will, and to look up to thee alone for temporal and eternal happiness.

Thou hast made us acquainted with thy character, as the omnipresent and omniscient, the holy and righteous God, to whom the thoughts of all are perfectly known, who continually beholds both the evil and the good, who is able to save or to destroy, and who will not fail to reward or punish men according to the state of their hearts and the tenour of their lives.— Grant O Lord, we beseech thee, that, under the influence of such views of thy perfections, we may walk before thee with holy care, dread and fly from every secret sin, cherish a sacred regard to thine authority at all times and in all places, zealously strive to perform whatever thou commandest, prefer thy friendship and approbation to every other object, and never despond whilst thou the Lord God omnipotent art with us.

Thou hast taught us to contemplate thee as a gracious and merciful Father, delighting to do good to thy children, exercising forbearance towards our infirmities, and pardoning those who renounce their transgressions and walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. Dispose us, by such considerations, to love thee supremely, to rejoice in thee evermore, to adore thee with filial confidence, and to commit

our bodies and souls to thee with immovable tranquillity and hope.

Thou hast given us thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world, the conductor of our souls in the path of righteousness and peace, the Mediator between us and thee, the Redeemer who is able to save unto the uttermost and to raise his followers to his own honour and felicity.— Grant, O God, that we may fully realize the worth of his gospel, and profess it openly before the world. May we rejoice in his doctrines, death, and resurrection, and entertain the strongest trust in his promises. May we place ourselves under his direction and guidance, keep his character continually before our eyes, and look unto him in life and in death as the author and finisher of our faith.

Almighty God, thou hast connected us together in a state of society by the tenderest ties, and appointed us to instruct, to counsel, to encourage, to relieve, to console, and to support one another.— May we ever take pleasure in promoting the welfare and cheering the minds of our fellow-travellers to eternity. May we always cordially love our friends, and forgive and do good to our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers. May we faithfully serve one another with the talents and possessions, which thou hast confided to us as thy stewards. May we feel and act as brethren, the servants of one common Master, the children of the same Father in heaven, the heirs of the same blessings beyond the grave.

Thou hast ordained, that, after a short pilgrimage on earth, our bodies shall die and our spirits ascend unto thee their Maker. Thou hast taught us, that we shall all be placed before the judgment-seat of Jesus Christ, that men shall reap what they have sown on earth, and that an endless

duration awaits each one of us.—O God! may we never boast of tomorrow, nor delay the performance of the work which thou hast given us to do, nor attach ourselves immoderately to this world. May the thought of death and judgment lead us to frequent and serious self-examination, and preserve us from engaging in vain and criminal pursuits. May it be our first concern, to be found faithful by thee, to improve and exalt the faculties of our immortal souls, to lay up treasures in heaven, to keep our loins girt and our lamps burning, and to hold ourselves in constant readiness for the coming of the great God and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May every truth of religion be rendered impressive to our minds, and duly influence us in all we think and feel, and say and do; that, forgetting the things which are behind, we may press forward continually to the mark of our high calling, and obtain the prize of eternal life, which thy grace is about to bestow upon thy faithful servants.

Almighty God, thou art the Father of all mankind. To the protection and blessing of thy Providence we commend all our brethren, the high and the low, the rich and the poor; beseeching thee to enable them to discharge their respective duties, and to enjoy contentedly whatever thou bestowest on them.

May our rulers and the rulers of all communities and nations be duly sensible of thy sovereign authority, and of the rights of those by whom they are intrusted with the weighty charge of government; obey thee in all humility; and exercise their power with wisdom, fidelity, and clemency.

May all, who are subject to lawful authority, set a just value on the blessings of good government, contribute their several parts towards the

public order and happiness, and conscientiously fulfil their obligations.

Bless the rich, O Lord, with a disposition to do good. Teach the poor to be sober, honest, industrious, and contented with their lot. Help all who suffer distress to rejoice in the discoveries of thy word, and to commit themselves to thy keeping in patience and well-doing. Lead all classes of men amongst us to labour in their vocations with integrity, diligence and zeal. And grant, that, by constantly obeying thy laws, by mutually exercising equity and kindness, we and all our fellow-creatures may enjoy the blessings which thou givest us in this world, and be trained up for the participation of endless felicity in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7.

ALmighty and most merciful God, who art infinitely exalted above every created being! we rejoice that we are permitted to raise our thoughts unto thee, and to call thee our Father. We adore thee as the Parent of angels and of men, and praise thee for the gracious care with which thou providest for our temporal and spiritual welfare. And we pray, that we may be animated with a spirit of filial piety, that we may delight in the contemplation of thy character and government, and call upon thee at all times with that cheerfulness and confidence, with which affectionate children approach a kind and indulgent Parent.

Grant, for this purpose, we beseech thee, that we and all our fellow-men may see thee more and more perfectly as thou art, and entertain worthy conceptions of thy nature, government, and will.

May that pure and undefiled religion, which Jesus taught, and which is the fountain of all our

knowledge of thee, be universally diffused, received, obeyed, and demonstrated to be the power of God unto salvation to all who sincerely believe it. Under its influence, may thy laws be fulfilled with alacrity and pleasure; and all thy rational creatures on earth emulate the zeal and devotion of angels and good men made perfect.

Thou alone knowest, great God, what measure of health and prosperity is good for man all the days of his life on earth. Bestow upon us, we beseech thee, what thy wisdom sees to be necessary. Preserve us from anxious cares and restless desires. Teach us to moderate our attachment to the world, to be content with our lot, and to be thankful for the blessings which we receive from thy liberal hand.

We confess, that we are unprofitable servants, that we have not deserved thy favours, and that we have often offended against thy holy commandments. But we implore from thee, who delightest to show compassion unto the contrite, the remission of all our errors and sins, upon the gracious terms proposed in thy gospel. Incline our hearts, by a lively sense of our many frailties and of our great need of thy mercy, to forgive and do good to those who may injure us. And as we are conscious of our own weakness, we intreat thee, the Governor of the Universe, to place us in circumstances favourable to our improvement. Assist us to shun the snares and temptations of vice, to avail ourselves of every means of grace, to fight the good fight of faith, to watch, to pray, and to be sober, to take up the cross and deny ourselves, following our great Saviour and Example with fidelity and constancy.

Finally, we pray, that we and all our fellow-men may be enabled to bear whatever afflictions thou sendest us, and that in thine own good season

we may be delivered from every sorrow and distress. Deliver the nations from all ignorance, injustice, tyranny and bloodshed. Deliver our country from every evil which we feel or fear. Deliver the sick and the unhappy from the calamities which they suffer. Deliver the souls of the dying from gloomy fears, and grant them an abundant entrance into the land of eternal love and joy.

We offer up these our supplications unto thee as the disciples of thy Son, and with full reliance upon his assurance that those who ask with sincerity and faith shall receive. Thy power is equal to thy goodness. All things in heaven and on earth are at thy disposal. And thine be the honour, the glory, the gratitude and the praise, for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

8.

OUR Father who art in heaven! look down in mercy upon thy needy and dependant children, who have come to thine altar with the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. We approach thee with the persuasion, that thou art elevated above all our praise, and that no tribute from mortals can add to thy happiness or glory. The faculties, with which we worship thee, are thy gift; of thee, and through thee, and to thee, are all things. But we rejoice, that, though thou art too great to need our offerings, thou art too good to despise them. We bless thee, that we are indulged in the invaluable honour and privilege of spreading our wants before thee. We bless thee, that whilst thou art superintending the concerns of ten thousand worlds, thou condescendest to hear our supplications, and to number the very hairs of our

heads. We bless thee for the promise of thy word, that thou wilt be nigh unto all those who call upon thee in sincerity and truth. Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as shall be most expedient for them. May it please thee, of thine infinite mercy, to give us health of body and cheerfulness of mind, to prosper our honest industry, and to protect us from danger and distress, if thine unerring wisdom shall perceive this to be good for us. Vouchsafe, of thine infinite mercy, to blot out our many sins and iniquities, and to spare and save the souls of thy servants, who with unfeigned contrition draw near to thy throne through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Conduct us by thy Spirit and Providence, in safety, through this transitory world. Lead us to the perception of every necessary truth. Implant and nourish in our hearts pious principles and virtuous affections. Sanctify us in the springs of action; assist us to govern our tempers and passions; enable us to live not by sight, but by faith, the faith of that Lord who hath loved us and given himself for us, and to adorn our profession by an unblamable walk and conversation. Vouchsafe to prepare each one of us for our respective situations, circumstances and trials. Incline the young, O God, to cultivate a sober mind, to remember thee their Creator, Redeemer, and Judge, and to acquire those habits, which will secure their present peace and usefulness, and qualify them for celestial felicity. Lead those, who have arrived to the middle stage of life, to labour while it is day in thy service and for the benefit of their fellow-men, before the night cometh when no man can work. Support thine aged servants under all their infirmities, and help them by their example to convince the rising generation, that Religion has power to shed comfort upon the decline of life and to

smooth the passage to the tomb. Dispose such as are possessed of this world's goods, to enjoy them with a temperate and thankful soul, and to be ready to distribute their treasures for the relief of the necessitous. Inspire the poor and the afflicted with submission and hope, and assist them to secure themselves unfading riches beyond the grave. Grant that, as parents or children, as masters or servants, as members of families and citizens of the state, we may discharge our obligations with diligence and care, and shine as lights in thy church on earth. While we are fervent in spirit and zealous of good works, may we possess that peace which the world is unable to give, and go on our way rejoicing. In every situation in which we shall be placed, may it be our chief care to be found doing justly, loving mercy, walking humbly before thee the Lord our God, following our Saviour Jesus Christ, and seeking thy heavenly kingdom. In joy and sorrow, in life and death, may our souls be stayed upon thee, and triumph in the assurance of thy love and of the resurrection of the just.

These blessings, which we solicit for ourselves, we beseech thee, Father of mercies, to extend unto all our brethren, and finally to receive them and us into the mansions of everlasting life and bliss, through thy rich and free grace in Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SECTION III.

FOUR PRAYERS after sermon.

1.

O God, the eternal source of wisdom and purity, from whom all good counsels, all holy desires, and all just works do proceed; we offer up our

prayers unto thee, beseeching thee to sanctify our hearts by thy holy word. What we know not, teach thou us. Whatever is wrong in us, dispose and enable us to reform. Whatever in us is good, assist us to carry forward to perfection. Grant that we may go forth into the world with the spirit of true religion in our souls, and spend all our days in thy fear and love; that we may depart from this scene of discipline, whenever thou shalt take us away, with Christian hope, and be admitted into thy sacred temple above, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2.

ACCCEPT, O thou God of compassion, the thankful acknowledgments of our hearts for the privileges which we have enjoyed at this time. Forgive the imperfection of our devotions and whatever thy pure eyes may have seen amiss in us. Of thy great mercy, grant us such things as shall be good for us, though we may neglect to pray for them; and deny us such things as would be hurtful to us, though we should earnestly desire them. Impress upon our minds the solemn counsels of thy word, and let not the cares or pleasures of the world prevent or impair their efficacy. Help us to walk as in thy sacred presence; and at last vouchsafe to receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

3.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, through whose infinite goodness we have been permitted to offer up our united supplications and to meditate upon the interests of our immortal souls: hear thou in heaven, we beseech thee, the petitions of

our hearts, and give thy blessing to the lessons which we have learned, as far as they agree with thy truth in scripture. Establish our minds in the love of every Christian ordinance and duty. Grant, that this house of prayer may become and continue to us the gate of heaven, the temple of devout and holy joy, the refuge of our souls from the trials and temptations of life, the school of genuine wisdom and virtue. Fit us more and more perfectly for glorifying thy name upon earth, and for singing thy praise in the mansions of thy house above, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

4.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words, which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honour and praise of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, &c. &c.

SECTION IV.

SCRIPTURAL BENEDICTIONS, for the conclusion of public worship.

1.

THE Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine on thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance on thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

2. **THE** grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our heavenly Father, and the communion of his holy Spirit, be with us and with all our brethren of mankind, now and evermore. Amen.

3. **MAY** grace and peace be multiplied unto us and all men, through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. **THE** grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

5. **THE** God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6. **THE** God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

SECTION V.

1 *Table of the selections from the Scriptures commonly called "the gospels and epistles."*

N. B.—These selections are added to the Liturgy, because it has been customary in many of the Lutheran churches in the United States to

36 GOSPELS AND EPISTLES.

have them read regularly in public worship. But it is necessary to remark concerning them, that there is an impropriety in congregations confining themselves, year after year, to these portions of the sacred volume, and neglecting all the rest, when they meet together for instruction and prayer. Besides, although some of these selections are excellent, not a few of them have been chosen injudiciously, or are so unnaturally torn away from the context, as to be dark and unedifying, instead of exhibiting a clear and connected view of the great facts, truths, and lessons, contained in holy writ, especially of those which are most interesting to Christians. It is very desirable, that other and larger sections of the scriptures should be read in our religious assemblies; and it is pleasing to find, that this is done in the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Saxony, Wirtemberg, and other Protestant countries in Germany.

The 1 Sunday in Advent.

The Gospel.—Matth. 21. 1—9.

The Epistle.—Rom. 13. 11—14.

The 2 Sunday in Advent.

Luke 21. 25—36.

Rom. 15. 4—13.

The 3 Sunday in Advent.

Matth. 11. 2—10.

1 Cor. 13. 1—5.

The 4 Sunday in Advent.

John 1. 19—28.

Philipp. 4. 4—7.

Christmas Day.

Luke 2. 1—14.

Titus 2. 11—14.

The Sunday after Christmas.

Luke 2. 33—40.

Gal. 4. 1—7.

New-Year's Day, on the Circumcision of Christ.

Luke 2. 21.

Gal. 3. 23—29.

The 1 Sunday after New-year.

Matth. 2. 13—23, or

Matth. 3. 13—17.

1 Peter 4. 12—19, or

Titus 3. 4—7.

The Epiphany, or Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

Matth. 2. 1—12.

Isaiah 60. 1—6, or

Ephes. 3. 1—12.

The 1 Sunday after Epiphany..

Luke 2. 41—52.

Rom. 12. 1—6.

The 2 Sunday after Epiphany.

John 2. 1—11.

Rom. 12. 6—16.

The 3 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 8. 1—13.

Rom. 12. 17—21.

The 4 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 8. 23—27.

Rom. 13. 8—10.

The 5 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 13. 24—30.

Coloss. 3. 12—17.

The 6 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 17. 1—9.

2 Peter 1. 16—21.

Septuagesima, or the 3 Sunday before Lent.

Matth. 20. 1—16.

1 Cor. 9. 24—27.

Sexagesima, or the 2 Sunday before Lent.

Luke 8. 4—15.

2 Cor. 11. 19—31.

Quinquagesima, or the Sunday before Lent.

Luke 18. 31—43.

1 Cor. 18. 28—31.

The 1 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 4. 1—11.

2 Cor. 6. 1—10.

The 2 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 15. 21—28.

1 Thess. 4. 1—7.

The 3 Sunday in Lent.

Luke 11. 14—28.

Ephes. 5. 1—13.

The 4 Sunday in Lent.

John 6. 1—15.

Gal. 4. 21—31.

The 5 Sunday in Lent.

John 8. 46—59.

Heb. 9. 11—15.

The 6 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 21. 1—9.

Philipp. 2. 5—11, or

1 Cor. 11. 23—32.

Good Friday.

Matth. 26. 36 to the end of ch. 27, or

Mark 14. 32 to the end of ch. 15, or

Luke 22. 39 to the end of ch. 23, or

John 18, and 19.

Isaiah 53.

Easter.

Mark 16. 1—8.

1 Cor. 5. 6—8.

Easter Monday.

Luke 24. 13—35.

Acts 10. 34—41.

The 1 Sunday after Easter.

John 20. 19—31.

1 John 5. 1—10.

The 2 Sunday after Easter.

John 10. 11—16.

1 Peter 2. 21—25.

The 3 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 16—23.

1 Peter 2. 11—20.

The 4 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 5—15.

James 1. 16—21.

The 5 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 23—30.

James 1. 22—27.

Ascension Day.

Mark 16. 14—20.

Acts 1. 1—11.

The Sunday after Ascension Day.

John 15. 26—16. 4.

1 Peter 4. 7—11.

Whitsunday.

John 14. 23—31.

Acts 2. 1—12.

Whitsun-Monday.

John 3. 16—21.

Acts 10. 42—48.

Trinity Sunday.

John 3. 1—15.

Rom. 11. 33—36.

The 1 Sunday after Trinity.

Luke 16. 19—31.

1 John 4. 16—21.

The 2 Sunday &c.

Luke 14. 16—24.

1 John 3. 13—18.

The 3 Sunday &c.

Luke 15. 1—10.

1 Peter 5. 6—11.

The 4 Sunday &c.

Luke 6. 36---42.

Rom. 8. 18---23.

The 5 Sunday &c.

Luke 5. 1---11.

1 Peter 3. 8---15.

The 6 Sunday &c.

Matth. 5. 20---26.

Rom. 6. 3---11.

The 7 Sunday &c.

Mark 8. 1---9.

Rom. 6. 19---23.

The 8 Sunday &c.

Matth. 7. 15---23.

Rom. 8. 12---17.

The 9 Sunday &c.

Luke 16. 1---9.

1 Cor. 10. 6---13.

The 10 Sunday &c.

Luke 19. 41---48.

1 Cor. 12. 1---11.

The 11 Sunday &c.

Luke 18. 9---14.

1 Cor. 15. 1---10.

The 12 Sunday &c.

Mark 7. 31---37.

2 Cor. 3. 4---11.

The 13 Sunday &c.

Luke 40. 23---37.

Gal. 3. 15---22.

The 14 Sunday &c.

Luke 47. 14---19.

Gal. 5. 16---24.

The 15 Sunday &c.

Matth. 6. 24---34.

Gal. 5. 25---ch. 6. 10.

The 16 Sunday &c.

Luke 7. 11---17.

Ephes. 3. 13---21.

The 17 Sunday &c.

Luke 14. 1---11.

Ephes. 4. 1---6.

The 18 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 34---46.

1 Cor. 1. 4---9.

The 19 Sunday &c.

Matth. 9. 1---8.

Ephes. 4. 22---28.

The 20 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 1---14.

Ephes. 5. 15---21.

The 21 Sunday &c.

John 4. 47---54.

Ephes. 6. 10---17.

The 22 Sunday &c.

Matth. 18. 23---35.

Philipp. 1. 3---11.

The 23 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 15---22.

Philipp. 3. 17---21.

The 24 Sunday &c.

Matth. 9. 18---26.

Coloss. 1. 9---14.

The 25 Sunday &c.

Matth. 24. 15---28.

1 Thess. 4. 13---18.

The 26 Sunday &c.

Matth. 23. 31---46.

2 Peter 3. 3---14.

The 27 Sunday &c.

Matth. 21. 36---ch. 25. 1---30.

1 Thess. 5. 1---11.

SECTION VI.

THE MINISTRATION OF BAPTISM
TO INFANTS.

Address of the minister to the parents or other sponsors of the child to be baptised.

My Christian Friends,

IT was the command of our Saviour Jesus Christ to his apostles, that they should go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. He declared to those, among whom he lived, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." And he requires, that we all be directed in our sentiments and deportment by his doctrine and example, and that the same mind be in us which was in him.

This sanctification of the heart and life is signified by the sacramental rite, which our Lord instituted as the means of introducing the members of his visible church on earth. As water purifies our bodies from all uncleanness; so the religion of Christ, into which we are initiated by baptism, is perfectly adapted to cleanse and purify our souls. And as Almighty God, in receiving us through this ordinance into his new covenant, graciously offers and bestows upon us the highest religious advantages, the assurance of his mercy, the promise of the assistance of his Spirit, and the hope of everlasting happiness; so, likewise, by this institution, we are brought under the most solemn obligations to follow after holiness. "The baptism, which saves us, is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God."

We are assured in scripture, that the promises of God belong not only to us, but to our children.

BAPTISM.

43

Among the people of Israel, infants were received, by the divine command, into the covenant which was made with Abraham and his descendants. When heads of families were converted to Christianity by the agency of the Apostles, not only they, but their household, were baptised. And we have, moreover, the strongest proof of the love of God to young children, and of their fitness for his Kingdom, in the declaration of our blessed Saviour, the image and representative of his Father. "They brought young children unto him," says St. Mark, "that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased and said unto them: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Thus encouraged, you bring this child to be added to the church of the Redeemer, professing your own Christian faith, and your desire that *he* (*she*) should realize the blessings of the gospel, and promising to employ your best endeavours for the accomplishment of this object.

I ask you, therefore, before God and these witnesses:

Do you renounce, and will you faithfully exhort this child to renounce, the devil and all his works and ways?—Answ. Yes.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; who descended into hell,

smoothe the passage to the tomb. Dispose such as are possessed of this world's goods, to enjoy them with a temperate and thankful soul, and to be ready to distribute their treasures for the relief of the necessitous. Inspire the poor and the afflicted with submission and hope, and assist them to secure themselves unfading riches beyond the grave. Grant that, as parents or children, as masters or servants, as members of families and citizens of the state, we may discharge our obligations with diligence and care, and shine as lights in thy church on earth. While we are fervent in spirit and zealous of good works, may we possess that peace which the world is unable to give, and go on our way rejoicing. In every situation in which we shall be placed, may it be our chief care to be found doing justly, loving mercy, walking humbly before thee the Lord our God, following our Saviour Jesus Christ, and seeking thy heavenly kingdom. In joy and sorrow, in life and death, may our souls be stayed upon thee, and triumph in the assurance of thy love and of the resurrection of the just.

These blessings, which we solicit for ourselves, we beseech thee, Father of mercies, to extend unto all our brethren, and finally to receive them and us into the mansions of everlasting life and bliss, through thy rich and free grace in Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SECTION III.

FOUR PRAYERS after sermon.

1.

O God, the eternal source of wisdom and purity, from whom all good counsels, all holy desires, and all just works do proceed; we offer up our

prayers unto thee, beseeching thee to sanctify our hearts by thy holy word. What we know not, teach thou us. Whatever is wrong in us, dispose and enable us to reform. Whatever in us is good, assist us to carry forward to perfection. Grant that we may go forth into the world with the spirit of true religion in our souls, and spend all our days in thy fear and love; that we may depart from this scene of discipline, whenever thou shalt take us away, with Christian hope, and be admitted into thy sacred temple above, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2.

ACCCEPT, O thou God of compassion, the thankful acknowledgments of our hearts for the privileges which we have enjoyed at this time. Forgive the imperfection of our devotions and whatever thy pure eyes may have seen amiss in us. Of thy great mercy, grant us such things as shall be good for us, though we may neglect to pray for them; and deny us such things as would be hurtful to us, though we should earnestly desire them. Impress upon our minds the solemn counsels of thy word, and let not the cares or pleasures of the world prevent or impair their efficacy. Help us to walk as in thy sacred presence; and at last vouchsafe to receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

3.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, through whose infinite goodness we have been permitted to offer up our united supplications and to meditate upon the interests of our immortal souls: hear thou in heaven, we beseech thee, the petitions of

our hearts, and give thy blessing to the lessons which we have learned, as far as they agree with thy truth in scripture. Establish our minds in the love of every Christian ordinance and duty. Grant, that this house of prayer may become and continue to us the gate of heaven, the temple of devout and holy joy, the refuge of our souls from the trials and temptations of life, the school of genuine wisdom and virtue. Fit us more and more perfectly for glorifying thy name upon earth, and for singing thy praise in the mansions of thy house above, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

4.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words, which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honour and praise of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, &c. &c.

SECTION IV.

SCRIPTURAL BENEDICTIONS, *for the conclusion of public worship.*

1.

THE Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine on thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance on thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

2.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our heavenly Father, and the communion of his holy Spirit, be with us and with all our brethren of mankind, now and evermore. Amen.

3.

MAY grace and peace be multiplied unto us and all men, through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

5.

THE God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6.

THE God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

SECTION V.

1 Table of the selections from the Scriptures commonly called "the gospels and epistles."

N. B.—These selections are added to the Liturgy, because it has been customary in many of the Lutheran churches in the United States to

have them read regularly in public worship. But it is necessary to remark concerning them, that there is an impropriety in congregations confining themselves, year after year, to these portions of the sacred volume, and neglecting all the rest, when they meet together for instruction and prayer. Besides, although some of these selections are excellent, not a few of them have been chosen injudiciously, or are so unnaturally torn away from the context, as to be dark and unedifying, instead of exhibiting a clear and connected view of the great facts, truths, and lessons, contained in holy writ, especially of those which are most interesting to Christians. It is very desirable, that other and larger sections of the scriptures should be read in our religious assemblies; and it is pleasing to find, that this is done in the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Saxony, Wirtemberg, and other Protestant countries in Germany.

The 1 Sunday in Advent.

The Gospel.—Matth. 21. 1—9.

The Epistle.—Rom. 13. 11—14.

The 2 Sunday in Advent.

Luke 21. 25—36.

Rom. 15. 4—13.

The 3 Sunday in Advent.

Matth. 11. 2—10.

1 Cor. 1. 1—5.

The 4 Sunday in Advent.

John 1. 19—28.

Philipp. 4. 4—7.

Christmas Day.

Luke 2. 1—14.

Titus 2. 11—14.

The Sunday after Christmas.

Luke 2. 33—40.

Gal. 4. 1—7.

New-Year's Day, or the Circumcision of Christ.

Luke 2. 21.

Gal. 3. 23—29.

The 1 Sunday after New-year.

Matth. 2. 13—23, or

Matth. 3. 13—17.

1 Peter 4. 12—19, or

Titus 3. 4—7.

The Epiphany, or Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

Matth. 2. 1—12.

Isaiah 60. 1—6, or

Ephes. 3. 1—12.

The 1 Sunday after Epiphany..

Luke 2. 41—52.

Rom. 12. 1—6.

The 2 Sunday after Epiphany.

John 2. 1—11.

Rom. 12. 6—16.

The 3 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 8. 1—13.

Rom. 12. 17—21.

The 4 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 8. 23—27.

Rom. 13. 8—10.

The 5 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 13. 24—30.

Coloss. 3. 12—17.

The 6 Sunday after Epiphany.

Matth. 17. 1—9.

2 Peter 1. 16—21.

Septuagesima, or the 3 Sunday before Lent.

Matth. 20. 1—16.

1 Cor. 9. 24—27.

Sexagesima, or the 2 Sunday before Lent.

Luke 8. 4—15.

2 Cor. 11. 19—31.

Quinquagesima, or the Sunday before Lent.

Luke 18. 31—48.

1 Cor. 18.

The 1 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 4. 1—11.

2 Cor. 6. 1—10.

The 2 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 15. 21—28.

1 Thess. 4. 1—7.

The 3 Sunday in Lent.

Luke 11. 14—28.

Ephes. 5. 1—13.

The 4 Sunday in Lent.

John 6. 1—15.

Gal. 4. 21—31.

The 5 Sunday in Lent.

John 8. 46—59.

Heb. 9. 11—15.

The 6 Sunday in Lent.

Matth. 21. 1—9.

Philipp. 2. 5—11, or

1 Cor. 11. 23—32.

Good Friday.

Matth. 26. 36 to the end of ch. 27, or

Mark 14. 32 to the end of ch. 15, or

Luke 22. 39 to the end of ch. 23, or

John 18, and 19.

Isaiah 53.

Easter.

Mark 16. 1—8.

1 Cor. 5. 6—8.

Easter Monday.

Luke 24. 13—35.

Acts 10. 34—41.

The 1 Sunday after Easter.

John 20. 19—31.

1 John 5. 4—10.

The 2 Sunday after Easter.

John 10. 11—16.

1 Peter 2. 21—25.

The 3 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 16—23.

1 Peter 2. 11—20.

The 4 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 5—15.

James 1. 16—21.

The 5 Sunday after Easter.

John 16. 23—30.

James 1. 22—27.

Ascension Day.

Mark 16. 14—20.

Acts 1. 1—11.

The Sunday after Ascension Day.

John 15. 26—16. 4.

1 Peter 4. 7—11.

Whitsunday.

John 14. 23—31.

Acts 2. 1—12.

Whitsun-Monday.

John 3. 16—21.

Acts 10. 42—48.

Trinity Sunday.

John 3. 1—15.

Rom. 11. 33—36.

The 1 Sunday after Trinity.

Luke 16. 19—31.

1 John 4. 16—21.

The 2 Sunday &c.

Luke 14. 16—24.

1 John 3. 13—18.

The 3 Sunday &c.

Luke 15. 1—10.

1 Peter 5. 6—11.

The 4 Sunday &c.

Luke 6. 36---42.

Rom. 8. 18---23.

The 5 Sunday &c.

Luke 5. 1---11.

1 Peter 3. 8---15.

The 6 Sunday &c.

Matth. 5. 20---26.

Rom. 6. 3---11.

The 7 Sunday &c.

Mark 8. 1---9.

Rom. 6. 19---23.

The 8 Sunday &c.

Matth. 7. 15---23.

Rom. 8. 12---17.

The 9 Sunday &c.

Luke 16. 1---9.

1 Cor. 10. 6---13.

The 10 Sunday &c.

Luke 19. 41---48.

1 Cor. 12. 1---11.

The 11 Sunday &c.

Luke 18. 9---14.

1 Cor. 13. 1---10.

The 12 Sunday &c.

Mark 7. 31---37.

2 Cor. 3. 4---11.

The 13 Sunday &c.

Luke 40. 23---37.

Gal. 3. 15---22.

The 14 Sunday &c.

Luke 47. 14---19.

Gal. 5. 16---24.

The 15 Sunday &c.

Matth. 6. 24---34.

Gal. 5. 25---ch. 6. 10.

The 16 Sunday &c.

Luke 7. 11---17.

Ephes. 3. 13---21.

The 17 Sunday &c.

Luke 14. 1---11.

Ephes. 4. 1---6.

The 18 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 34---46.

1 Cor. 1. 4---9.

The 19 Sunday &c.

Matth. 9. 1---8.

Ephes. 4. 22---28.

The 20 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 1---14.

Ephes. 5. 15---21.

The 21 Sunday &c.

John 4. 47---54.

Ephes. 6. 10---17.

The 22 Sunday &c.

Matth. 18. 23---35.

Philipp. 1. 3---11.

The 23 Sunday &c.

Matth. 22. 15---22.

Philipp. 3. 17---21.

The 24 Sunday &c.

Matth. 9. 18---26.

Coloss. 1. 9---14.

The 25 Sunday &c.

Matth. 24. 15---28.

1 Thess. 4. 13---18.

The 26 Sunday &c.

Matth. 23. 31---36.

2 Peter 3. 3---14.

The 27 Sunday &c.

Matth. 24. 36---ch. 25. 1---30.

1 Thess. 5. 1---11.

SECTION VI.

THE MINISTRATION OF BAPTISM
TO INFANTS.

*Address of the minister to the parents or other
sponsors of the child to be baptised.*

My Christian Friends,

IT was the command of our Saviour Jesus Christ to his apostles, that they should go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. He declared to those, among whom he lived, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." And he requires, that we all be directed in our sentiments and deportment by his doctrine and example, and that the same mind be in us which was in him.

This sanctification of the heart and life is signified by the sacramental rite, which our Lord instituted as the means of introducing the members of his visible church on earth. As water purifies our bodies from all uncleanness; so the religion of Christ, into which we are initiated by baptism, is perfectly adapted to cleanse and purify our souls. And as Almighty God, in receiving us through this ordinance into his new covenant, graciously offers and bestows upon us the highest religious advantages, the assurance of his mercy, the promise of the assistance of his Spirit, and the hope of everlasting happiness; so, likewise, by this institution, we are brought under the most solemn obligations to follow after holiness. "The baptism, which saves us, is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God."

We are assured in scripture, that the promises of God belong not only to us, but to our children.

BAPTISM.

43

Among the people of Israel, infants were received, by the divine command, into the covenant which was made with Abraham and his descendants. When heads of families were converted to Christianity by the agency of the Apostles, not only they, but their household, were baptised. And we have, moreover, the strongest proof of the love of God to young children, and of their fitness for his Kingdom, in the declaration of our blessed Saviour, the image and representative of his Father. "They brought young children unto him," says St. Mark, "that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased and said unto them: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, who-soever shall not receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Thus encouraged, you bring this child to be added to the church of the Redeemer, professing your own Christian faith, and your desire that *he (she)* should realize the blessings of the gospel, and promising to employ your best endeavours for the accomplishment of this object.

I ask you, therefore, before God and these witnesses:

Do you renounce, and will you faithfully exhort this child to renounce, the devil and all his works and ways?—Answ. Yes.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; who descended into hell,

the third day arose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

Do you also believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?—Answ. Yes.

Is it your desire, that this child shall be baptized into the Christian faith; and are you resolved to instruct *him* carefully in the gospel of our Lord Jesus, and to teach *him* to walk according to its holy commandments?—Answ. Yes.

Instead of the preceding questions, the following may be proposed: Do you sincerely believe in the divine authority of the religion of Jesus, as it has been handed down to us in the writings of the Evangelists and Apostles? Is it your intention to educate this child in the knowledge and love of the gospel? And do you engage to use all necessary care and diligence, by instruction, admonition, example, and discipline, that *he* shall renounce and avoid every thing that is evil, and that *he* shall keep God's holy will and commandments as declared in his sacred word?—If this be your faith and serious resolution, please to profess the same, by answering, "Yes."

N. I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Let us pray.—

Almighty and everlasting God! we adore thee as the great Parent of the children of men, as the Father of our spirits and the Former of our bodies. We praise thee for giving existence to this infant, and for preserving *him* until this day. We bless thee, that *he* is called to virtue and glory, that *he* has now been dedicated to thee and brought within

the pale of the Christian church. We thank thee, that by the gospel of thy Son *he* is furnished with every thing necessary to *his* spiritual happiness; that it supplies light for *his* mind and comfort for *his* heart, encouragement and power to discharge *his* duty, and the precious hope of mercy and immortality to sustain and make *him* faithful. And we beseech thee to grant, O most merciful God, that this child may be enlightened and sanctified from *his* early years by thy Holy Spirit, and be everlastingly saved by thy mercy. Direct and bless thy servants, who are intrusted with the care of *him*, in the momentous work of *his* education. Inspire them with just conceptions of the absolute necessity of religious instructions and principles. Forbid that they should ever forget, that their offspring belong to thee; and that, if, through their criminal neglect or bad example, thy reasonable creature be lost, thou wilt require it at their hands. Give them a deep sense of the dignity of *his* nature, of the worth of *his* soul, and of the dangers to which *he* will be exposed; of the honour and felicity to which *he* is capable of ascending with thy blessing, and of the ruin in this world and the misery in the world to come which spring from wicked passions and conduct. Give them grace to check the first risings of forbidden inclinations in *his* breast, to be *his* defence against the temptations incident to childhood and youth, and as *he* grows up, to enlarge *his* understanding and to lead *him* to an acquaintance with thee and with Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Give them grace to cultivate in *his* heart a supreme reverence and love for thee, a grateful attachment to the gospel of thy Son *his* Saviour, a due regard for all its ordinances and institutions, a temper of kindness and good-will to all mankind, and an invincible love of sincerity and truth. Help them to watch continually over *him*.

with tender solicitude, to be studious that by their conversation and deportment *his* heart may not be corrupted, and at all times to set before *him* such an example that he may safely tread in their footsteps. If it please thee to prolong *his* days on earth, grant that *he* may prove an honour and a comfort to *his* parents and friends, be useful in the world, and find in thy Providence an unfailing defence and support. Whether *he* live, let *him* live to thee; or whether *he* die, let *him* die to thee. And, at the great day of account, may *he* and *his* parents meet each other with rapture, and rejoice together in thy redeeming love through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

The following exhortation, or any other which the minister may judge proper, may be addressed to the parents.

Solemn and momentous indeed is your duty, my friends, and great your responsibility to the Judge of all. To guide this feeble and ignorant creature in the road to happiness; to contribute to the unfolding of *his* powers, and to teach *him* to make a worthy use of them; to cherish the good, and to repress the evil dispositions, which may rise up in *his* mind; to guard *him* from error, vice, and misery; to make *him* acquainted with the great design of *his* being; to lead *him* to truth, wisdom, piety, and virtue; to fit *him* for acting his part well on the theatre of this world; and to prepare *him* for endless bliss in the world to come:—what a noble, delightful, and arduous employment! What a recompence will attend it, if well performed, both here and hereafter! What cutting sorrow would you be doomed to feel, should you neglect this duty, or acquit yourselves ill in it!—Let it be your great aim to discharge this obligation with fidelity; and, having been the instruments of giving life to this infant, let it be the subject of your prayers and the end of

your endeavours, that you may meet *him* among the spirits of just men made perfect before the throne of God and the Lamb. Amen.

SECTION VII.

*THE MINISTRATION OF BAPTISM to
such as are of riper years.*

Dearly Beloved,

OUR blessed Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, having himself published his religion for the salvation of the world, to the Jewish nation, commissioned his apostles to compleat the work which he had begun. "All power," said he, "is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." In obedience to this direction, his disciples preached his gospel in various parts of the earth; and as many, as professed "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ," were received and acknowledged by baptism as members of his church. The Jews were required to renounce their corrupt prejudices and customs; the heathens, to forsake their idolatry and superstition: and it was enjoined upon both, that they should relinquish every evil thought and way, enter upon a new and better course of thinking and living, and be guided in all respects by the sacred principles of the gospel, if they were desirous of securing the blessedness of true Christians.

By the ordinance of Baptism, Christ has most wisely provided for preserving his church and for maintaining among us a sense of the holiness and

regenerating influence of his doctrine. Water was appointed by him to be employed as an emblem of spiritual purity, or of that moral and religious improvement in which all our Christian advantages are to terminate. And it is designed by him, that it shall be said of all who embrace his religion: "ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God."

Such is the origin and nature of this rite. You, my *brother* (*sister*) in the profession of your Christian faith, present yourself to be baptized according to this institution. I ask you, therefore, in the presence of these witnesses, and before that august being who searcheth the heart,

Q. Do you sincerely believe in the divine authority of the religion of Jesus, as it is contained in holy scripture, receiving it as the rule of your faith and as your guide through all the changes of this life to that which is to come?

Answer. I do.

Q. Do you renounce all sinful desires and works, and promise, by the help of God, to adorn your profession with an holy life and conversation?

A. I do; and, by the help of God, I will endeavour to fulfil this promise.

Upon this your solemn profession and promise, I baptize thee, N, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath taught us by his own conduct to fulfil all righteousness; we offer unto thee our thankful acknowledgments, that this thy servant has now been engrafted into the body of Christ's church, and been made a partaker of those heavenly blessings which we have received through our great Mediator. Accept, we beseech

BAPTISM.

25

thee, this instance of *his* obedience to thy will and this manifestation of *his* desire to please thee. If, through his own neglect and the temptations which are in the world, *he* has entertained any evil affection or offended against thy holy laws; we beseech thee in thine infinite mercy to pardon *him*. Pour out upon *him* thy Holy Spirit, and assist *him* to accomplish his vows. Incline *his* heart to study with diligence and meekness the sacred records of our religion, to receive with all readiness the doctrines and instructions of thy Son, to submit faithfully to the authority of his laws, and on no occasion to be afraid or ashamed of confessing his name. Give *him* strength to triumph over every allurements and terror, that would draw *him* aside from the path of duty; that, as Christ died and rose again, so *he*, being baptized, may die unto sin and rise unto righteousness. Help *him* to avail *himself* of all the means which thou hast appointed for *his* improvement, that *he* may grow daily in every virtue which relates to thee, to *his* neighbour, and *himself*. Assist *him* to be fervent in spirit, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer, blessing those who persecute *him*, rejoicing with them that rejoice, and weeping with them that weep. May *his* deportment contribute to confute the enemies of Christianity, to edify its friends, and to prove to the doubting that it is the power of God unto salvation to all who uprightly believe and seriously apply it. Experiencing that the yoke of Christ is easy and his burden light, and blessed with a large measure of that consolation and cheerfulness which flow from the discoveries, the cross, and the resurrection of *his* Lord, may *he* prove faithful unto death, and finally through thy grace receive the crown of life!

And now unto thee, who art able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

SECTION VIII.

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION, or the renewal of their baptismal vows by such as were baptized in infancy and have come to years of discretion.

N. B.—This rite is performed publicly in the presence of the congregation; the Catechumens having been previously instructed in a regular series of lectures concerning the doctrines and duties of the Christian religion, and having been examined before the officers of the church or the congregation generally. The minister introduces the service with a suitable hymn and prayer, and with a short address to the audience respecting the nature and use of this solemnity, as an impressive mode of admitting new members into church-communion. The candidates for confirmation being then placed before the altar, the minister proposes to them the following, or similar, questions.

Q. I ask you, my friends, in the presence of omniscient God and of this assembly: Do you believe with all the heart in the divine authority of the religion of Christ, and accept it as the most precious gift of heaven to man, as an infallible guide to happiness in time and eternity? Do you revere Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as the Mediator and Saviour of mankind, as your Lord, Master, and Judge? And do you intend to profess him and his gospel before men without fear or shame, and to be faithful to him until the end of life?

A. I do.

Q. As Christianity is a practical religion, and faith without good works is dead and vain: Are you seriously resolved to love the Lord your God with all the heart, and to love your fellow-men as yourselves? Will you strive to grow in piety and virtue, to live as the disciples of that Redeemer who was holy and undefiled, and to imitate his encouraging and unspotted example?

A. I will, by the help of God.

Q. Do you now confirm and ratify the solemn promises made at your baptism, renewing and assuming the same for yourselves?

A. I do.

The catechumens then kneeling or standing around the altar, the minister lays his hand on the head of each, and accompanies this act with the following prayer:

May Almighty God, the Father of mercies, ever multiply unto you his grace and peace. May he enable you, by his holy Spirit, to become true followers of his Son; defend you in every time of danger; preserve you faithful unto the end; and bring you to the happiness of his heavenly kingdom. Amen.

The minister then gives his right hand to each of the catechumens, saying,

Upon the voluntary professions and promises which you have now made, I receive you as members of this Christian congregation, and give you, in its name, the right hand of brotherly fellowship and love; authorizing you to join us in the celebration of the Lord's supper and to participate in all our spiritual privileges, so long as your deportment shall correspond with your present engagement.

Let us unite our supplications to the throne of grace, in behalf of these our Christian brethren.

Almighty and everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, who art the Re-

warder of all that diligently seek thee ! we raise our hearts unto thee with thanksgiving for the establishment of thy church and for the means of grace. We bless thee, that, after our Lord Jesus Christ had made perfect our redemption by his death, resurrection and ascension, he sent abroad into the world his disciples to gather together a great flock of those who should believe in his name. We bless thee, that the day-spring from on high has visited our land, that these thy servants were born to the possession of the unspeakable advantages of thy holy gospel, and that they have now been disposed and enabled by thy goodness to make a profession of their Christian faith. Thou hast delivered them from the power of darkness, and translated them into the kingdom of thy dear Son. Thou hast brought them to know, in whom to believe and to trust, what duties they have to perform, and what is necessary to qualify them for thy favour and celestial happiness. Thou hast helped them to see, that Christ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.—Merciful God ! be pleased to accept the sacrifices of their hearts and to accomplish the desires and prayers which they address to thy throne. Let them not forget the vows, which they have made unto thee the righteous and holy Ruler ; and let thy Providence and Spirit assist them to carry them into execution. Perfect, we beseech thee, the good work which is begun in their souls, and help them to press towards the mark for the prize of their high calling in Jesus Christ. Increase their knowledge, and assist them perfectly to understand thy word. Strengthen their faith, and make it steadfast and immoveable. Fill their minds with love to thee, with love to their Redeemer, with love to all their fellow-men. Lead them to pursue with increasing ardour whatsoever things are honest, true, just,

CONFIRMATION.

53

pure, amiable, and of good report. Amidst the tumults of the world, holy Father! save them from the evils which are in the world, and suffer them not to become unmindful of their exalted destination. When they are tempted to sin, to folly, or to the neglect of their duty, let the remembrance of this sacred hour and of this solemn engagement penetrate their hearts, and make them victorious in the conflict.—And while it is their great aim to secure thy friendship, and so to act that the name of the Lord Jesus may be glorified in them; we pray thee, heavenly Father, to support, to comfort them, and to supply all their wants. Enable them habitually to rejoice in thee, to repose unbounded confidence in thy promises, and to find by their own happy experience that Religion's ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are paths of peace. Assist them, in celebrating the supper of their Lord, to realize all the honour and blessedness of belonging to him and of being united to him for ever. And when they shall be removed from this scene of trial, grant that they may be found among those, who have fought a good fight, finished their course, and kept their faith, and whom thy grace will receive into the realms of endless praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

A suitable address is then delivered to those who have confirmed their baptismal vows, and an exhortation is given to the congregation present to receive them as brethren, and to promote their improvement and comfort by kind assistance, affectionate counsel, and spotless examples: after which, the service may be concluded with a prayer like the following:

Most gracious God! we adore thine unspeakable goodness in preserving and blessing this portion of the church of thy Son, and in adding to it new mem-

bers from time to time. O grant, that Christian truth and piety may continually flourish amongst us, that we may maintain the honour of our religion by purity of mind and righteousness of life. Pour out into every heart that most excellent gift of charity, the bond of perfectness; and help us to live in peace, that thou the God of peace mayest be with us. Preserve us from giving offence and an occasion of falling to any. Excite us to assist, console, and strengthen one another, and to travel together to the heavenly land as brothers and sisters in the Lord. And when thou shalt be pleased to call us away from thy church on earth, vouchsafe to unite us with all thy faithful and obedient servants in heaven. Hear our prayers, we beseech thee, most merciful father, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SECTION IX.

ORDER OF THE SERVICE preparatory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The exercises, which are usually held on the day preceding the Communion, commence with the singing of an appropriate hymn, and with prayer. A discourse is then delivered, adapted to the occasion; after which the minister addresses the following, or similar questions to the communicants:

I ask you, my Friends, before Almighty God, and upon the evidence of your own consciences, whether you really feel, lament, and acknowledge, that you are sinners; that, by omitting to do good and actually doing evil, you have offended against your righteous Lawgiver and Judge, and rendered yourselves obnoxious to his displeasure? If this

FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER.

55

is the sincere and humble confession of your hearts, make it manifest with your lips by saying "yes."

Ans. Yes.

I ask you, whether you firmly believe, that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners, and that all those, who sincerely accept and obey his gospel, do receive the forgiveness of their sins and eternal life? Are you truly desirous to be delivered from your transgressions; and have you an earnest solicitude to partake of God's mercy to the penitent and faithful?

Ans. Yes.

I ask you, whether you are fully resolved to submit yourselves in future to the gracious direction of the divine Spirit, so that you may no more purposely offend, but be enabled to hate and avoid all manner of evil, to walk circumspectly before God, and to follow after holiness? If this is your upright intention and purpose, announce it in the presence of God and of each other, by saying "yes."

Ans. Yes.

Let us unite in making this confession in prayer to the throne of grace.

Here one of the forms of general confession may be used. See page 1. 2. Or the minister may address the Father of mercies in any other prayer, which he shall consider proper. This act of devotion being performed, the minister may say to the communicants:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, having given commandment to his ministers to declare to all who are truly penitent the absolution of their sins,—I pronounce to you, who in your

F

hearts believe in Jesus Christ and fully purpose a life of obedience and piety, the forgiveness of your errors and offences. Doubt not, I intreat you, but be completely assured, that, if you hunger and thirst after righteousness, you shall be satisfied and have cause to rejoice in the God of your salvation. He is the Lord God merciful and gracious; his covenant stands sure for ever. To call in question the fulfilment of his promises, would be ingratitude and impiety. The Spirit of Christ and Christianity is not the spirit of bondage and fear, but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.—But, while the gospel of Jesus commands us to bind up the broken-hearted, and to declare peace and goodwill to all who are reconciled unto God's government and laws; it threatens indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish against the workers of iniquity. My duty to you requires me, therefore, to state in the most explicit terms, that, if we are impenitent, and either live in the open violation of God's holy commandments, or hypocritically put on the form of godliness, all our confessions and promises will be unavailing; and that we shall be unable to escape from the wrath to come, unless we be renewed in our minds and lives, while the day of grace is prolonged.

May God have mercy upon every one of us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECTION X.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER.

After the usual morning service, the minister, standing at the communion-table, addresses the Communicants.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

Dearly Beloved,

AS you intend to come to the holy Communion, which our Lord ordained to be a memorial of his sufferings and death, and a means of improving his disciples in their attachment and obedience to his divine religion; I exhort you to raise your hearts unto God in prayer, devoutly relying on the sure promise that your humble petitions shall be heard and accepted.

I exhort you, moreover, in the name of our Lord Jesus, that you draw near, in this sacred ordinance, in the lively exercise of faith; directing your grateful attention to those words of its institution, in which the blessed Redeemer declares, that his body is given and his blood is shed for our benefit and for the remission of sin. Showing forth the Lord's death, let us meditate upon his love, and rejoice in that grace which is conferred through him upon the children of men.

Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Almighty and most merciful God, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires are known ; we rejoice and praise thee, that we are permitted to come into thy presence with the full assurance that thou art the Friend and Father of the children of men. Glory be to thee, that, when all flesh had corrupted its way, and the nations of the earth were dead in trespasses and sins, without the knowledge of thee, and without hope, thine eye beheld them with pity, and thine arm was outstretched for their deliverance. Glory be to thee, that in the fullness of time thou didst send thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, not that he should be the messenger of woe, not that he should condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Glory be to thee, that he is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness; and sanctification, and redemption. Glory be to thee for his precious discoveries and doctrines, for his astonishing works, and for his spotless example. Glory be to thee, that he was made perfect through sufferings, that he humbled himself and became obedient unto the death of the cross, that he is set forth to be a mercy-seat through faith in his blood, the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Glory be to thee, that by his death he has destroyed the terrors of the grave, that he is exalted above principalities and powers, that a name is given him which is above every name, that he is able to save unto the uttermost all those that come unto thee through him, and that he has entered into heaven as our Captain and Forerunner. Glory be to thee, that means and opportunities are afforded us for strengthening our affection to thy dear Son, and for imbibing his holy temper and disposition. In compliance with his sacred injunction, we would now celebrate his dying love, profess his name before men, take the cup of his salvation, and triumph in his cross.

And we beseech thee, O most merciful Father, to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant, that we may obtain all the benefits which flow from his death, his resurrection, and his glory. We presume not to come to thine altar, trusting in any righteousness of our own, but in thine infinite compassion and mercy in Christ Jesus. We beseech thee to pardon all our imperfections and iniquities, according to the gracious covenant, which thou hast been pleased to make with thy people through him. We renounce every passion and pursuit, inconsistent with thy service and with the gratitude which we owe to our magnanimous Deliverer. We present and devote to thee, O God, our bodies and our souls, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. And we implore thy gracious assistance, that we may be crucified unto the world, and that we may ever hereafter live by the faith of thy Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. In all the circumstances of this mortal life, may we tread in his footsteps with increasing fidelity and delight. Though we see him not, may we rejoice in him with joy unspeakable and full of glory; and at last receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

Blessed be thou, O God, that peace on earth and good-will to men is proclaimed from heaven. Blessed be thou, the Son of the Most High, who hast redeemed us by thy blood, and made us kings and priests unto God. Blessing and honour, and glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which
“he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had
“given thanks, he brake it, and gave it unto his
“disciples, saying, take, eat, this is my body which

"is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And, at the same time, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of this; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

Thus commanded and invited, let us approach the table of the Lord, My Brethren, with devotion and faith, with gratitude and charity, with penitence and holy joy. In the name of Christ our common and only Master, I say to all who own him as their Saviour, and resolve to be his faithful subjects: ye are welcome to this feast of love.

When the minister presents the bread to the communicants, he says to them: Jesus said, take and eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When the minister delivers the cup to them, he says: Jesus said, drink ye all of this; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

The minister is at liberty to substitute any other words in the place of these; and it is desirable, that he should endeavour to keep alive the devotion of the communicants by appropriate addresses to them, or by suitable passages of scripture like the following.—John iii. 16. Matth. xi. 28. 29. 30. John xv. 13. Rom. iii. 24. 25. Rom. v. 7. 8. Rom. viii. 1. Rom. viii. 32. 34. 2 Cor. v. 19. 1 Tim. i. 15. 1 John ii. 1. 2. iv. 10. Isaiah i. 16. 17. 18. Isaiah iv. 7. Ezekiel xxxiii. 11. Hebrews xii. 22. 23. 24. 2 Tim. ii. 11. 12. 13. Rom. viii. 17. 18. 1 Cor. ii. 9. xv. 55. 56. 57. 1 John iii. 2. John xiv. 2. 3.—These express the comfort and hope of Christians.—The sanctity of our profession as followers of Christ is exhibited in such as these:—Matth. v.

3—10. Matth. v. 48. Matth. vii. 12. Matth. vii. 21. John xiii. 14. 15. John xiv. 23. xv. 4. 5. 6. 8. 10. 12. 14. John v. 28. 29. Acts xvii. 31. Rom. vi. 22. 23. viii. 6. 9. 13. 14. xii. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 1 Cor. xv. 58. Gal. v. 22. 23. 24. Philipp. ii. 5. iii. 20. Coloss. iii. 1. 2. 3. 1 Tim. iv. 8. Titus ii. 11. 12. 13. 14. Hebrews xii. 1. 2. 14. James ii. 26. 1 Peter ii. 21. 22. 23. 1 John iv. 11. 16. 20. Rev. iii. 11. 21. ii. 10.

When all have received the communion, the minister addresses the congregation.—

O give thanks unto the Lord, "for he is good; and his mercy endureth for ever."

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father! we thine unworthy servants offer unto thee our united thanks for the comfort and refresment, the instruction and improvement, which thou hast been pleased to afford us in the commemoration of the life, the death, and the glory of thy blessed Son. How can we ever be sufficiently grateful to thee, for preparing such a table for us in the wilderness of this world! What good thing can we ever want, whilst we have thee for our Shepherd? What mercy wilt thou refuse to those, whom thou hast redeemed, not with corruptible things, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ! What consolation and joy are poured into our hearts, whilst we contemplate him crucified and risen again, triumphing over all his foes and ours, seated at thy right hand, and raising his disciples to his own glory and happiness!

O God! grant that we may be made conformable unto his death, and experience more and more perfectly the power of his resurrection. As we have now received the Lord Jesus for our Saviour and King, help us to walk in him, to be transformed

into his image, and to rely with invincible faith upon his promises. May we demonstrate our love to him by constantly keeping his commandments. May we make his cause our own personal concern, labour to promote it with all our powers, and rejoice in every instance of its success. Having professed ourselves brethren, members of the same spiritual body, may we ever be careful to exercise friendship and kindness towards all men; and help each other, to the best of our ability, in our journey to the land of immortality. May the sentiments and resolutions, which we now entertain, animate us in all the changes of this transitory state. May we go forth into the world, candidates for a crown of glory that fadeth not away, looking habitually unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, and anticipating his second coming with exalted and immoveable hope. Under the trials and temptations of life, may thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy Providence and Spirit sustain and comfort us. In the hour of death, may we commend our souls to thee, with the humble, joyful assurance of forgiveness and acceptance through our great Mediator. And when he shall appear, may we also appear with him in glory, be acknowledged as his disciples before angels and men, and be added to the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven.

Finally, we beseech thee, O most merciful God! to extend the advantages, which we enjoy this day, to all mankind. Have pity upon all Jews, Heathens, Mahometans, and unbelievers. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word; and let them be saved among those who worship and serve thee in spirit and in truth. Grant, that all Christians may love each other as one fold, having one Shepherd, and be careful to maintain good works. Comfort every sorrowful

heart. And vouchsafe to unite the whole human family in endless harmony and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The service is concluded with a hymn and one of the usual benedictions.

SECTION XI.

A FORM FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE RULING OFFICERS OF A CONGREGATION.

N. B. The Lutheran churches in this country, although united in Synods, having, independently of each other, framed such regulations as each judged most expedient and necessary for its own government, do not entirely agree in the names and powers of their Rulers; and, hence, only the general appellation, "ruling officers," is used in this form.

The minister, having presented the thanks of the Congregation to those officers whose term of service had expired, and having published the names of those duly elected agreeably to the constitution of the church, may deliver the following or any similar address.

My Christian Friends,

ORDER is the soul of every religious, as well as civil, society; and the strictest order is compatible with freedom of conscience. A congregation cannot conduct the solemnities of public worship with propriety, without confusion, and to its own edification, or carry on its outward affairs with success, unless some persons are appointed to rule according to prescribed laws. Even in the time of the Apostles, churches were not only

provided with regular teachers, but each of them was also placed under the care of particular inspectors, whose office it was to secure and promote its prosperity.

The same duty is incumbent upon "the Council" of this church. They are to take care, that "all things be done decently and in order;" that the service of God's house be performed in a manner corresponding with the importance of this object, and the purity and simplicity of the gospel; that the necessary instruction, consolation, and excitement to the practice of godliness and virtue, be afforded to the young and the old; and that Christian morals be cultivated and preserved among the members of the congregation. They are bound to endeavour to restore such as are overtaken in a fault, in the spirit of meekness; to admonish and warn open offenders; and, if necessary, to reprove them with the utmost seriousness, with a view to recover them from the error of their ways. They are to be particularly solicitous to prevent litigation and strife, to bring about a speedy reconciliation between contending parties, to relieve the poor, and to encourage and spread as much as possible a spirit of harmony, friendship, and brotherly love among all who are connected with this society. And they are to employ all proper means, at the same time, for advancing the external welfare of the church, and for increasing its ability to give assistance to similar institutions and to aid others in the diffusion of the divine word.

The officers elect standing before the altar, the minister says to them :

These, My Brethren, are the chief duties, which you have been chosen to fulfil. That the congregation may be certified of your willingness to discharge them, I ask you, in the presence of God and

of your fellow-worshippers, Whether you heartily believe in the truth of the Christian religion? Whether you are persuaded that you are lawfully called to the service of the church? and Whether you are determined to administer its government according to the rules of its constitution, and the spirit and precepts of the gospel?—If this be your conviction and determination, please to announce it by answering “Yes.”

Upon this your promise, I do hereby pronounce you to be invested with the office to which you have been elected, and give you, in the name of the congregation, the right hand of Christian fellowship and love.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father! we offer unto thee our united and thankful acknowledgments, that thou hast been pleased to introduce, to extend, and to support the Kingdom of thy Son Christ Jesus on earth, and that the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against it. We praise thee, that we, whose ancestors were afar off, have been brought to the glorious light of thy gospel. We praise thee for the ministry of reconciliation, for the ordinances of thy house, for the comfort, joy, and improvement, which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us in the exercises of public worship. And we beseech thee, O thou God of all grace! to continue to us these inestimable privileges, and to help us to make a wise and constant use of them. Grant, that thy word may be preached among us in its purity; and that all thy people may be disposed to hear it with attention, to receive it with affection, and to bring forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness. Forbid that any root of bitterness should spring up to trouble us. Enable us, whenever we assemble in this house of

prayer, to meet together with one accord, to praise thee with gladness and singleness of heart, and to continue steadfastly in brotherly fellowship. If any of us are held in the bonds of iniquity: we pray thee, O Lord, to break the fetters of sin, and to set the prisoners free. If any of us are penitent for their errors and transgressions: we pray thee to perfect and console them. If any of us are sincerely devoted to thee: we pray thee to make them faithful, and to fill them with peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Instruct and guide our youth in the path of innocence, that, as they grow in stature, they may grow in grace and in favour with thee and with men; and let the hoary head be found in the ways of righteousness.—We implore thy blessing, especially, for thy servants, who have been called, in thy Providence, to direct the concerns of this part of thy church. Give them, we beseech thee, a large measure of the Spirit of thy Son, the spirit of understanding and wisdom, the spirit of piety and virtue, the spirit of benevolence and charity. Replenish them with an enlightened and active zeal for the happiness of their brethren. Assist them to discharge their obligations with alacrity, patience, and firmness; and let all their consultations, influenced and governed by Christian love, tend to thy glory and the happiness of thy people. Help them to shine as lights before men, to be exemplary in their families, exemplary in their public walk and conversation, exemplary in their observance of religious duties, exemplary in the performance of every Christian office. While they study to approve themselves to thee, may they be honoured and esteemed by those for whom they labour, and rejoice in the assurance that their work is not in vain in the Lord. And, finally, grant, that they and we all, being built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus

Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, may become an holy temple unto thee.

Hear us, O God, of thine infinite mercy, in these our petitions, which we offer up in the name of thy Son; and thine be all the glory and praise now and evermore. Amen.

—:—:—
SECTION XII.

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.

When the persons to be married are assembled with their friends, the minister addresses them, saying,

DEARLY Beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy Matrimony; which was instituted of God himself for the happiness of mankind; which is commended in his word as an honourable state; and which is, therefore, not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and in the fear of God.

And also, speaking to the persons who are to be married, he may say,

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why you may not be lawfully united in matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be you well assured, that, if any persons are joined together otherwise than God's word allows, their marriage is not lawful.

If no impediment be alleged, the minister asks the man,

N. Do you take this woman to your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the state

of Matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, as a faithful Christian husband is bound to do, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity; and, forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, so long as you both shall live?—

Answ. Yes.

The minister then asks the woman,

N. Do you take this man to your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the state of Matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, as a faithful Christian wife is bound to do, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity; and, forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both live?—

Answ. Yes.

Then the minister, joining their right hands together, may say :

Those, whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Forasmuch as N. and N. have consented together in wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company; I pronounce that they are Man and Wife.

Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, the giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: we would acknowledge thee in all our ways, and devoutly implore thy direction and blessing. We adore thee as the source of our benevolent affections, and of all our social satisfactions and comforts. We praise thee, that thou hast ordained for us domestic institutions. And we beseech thee to behold with thy favour and to bless these thy servants, who have now entered into the closest and tenderest of all earthly connections. Help them to fulfil with fidelity the vow

and covenant which they have made in thy presence; that the relation, in which they stand to each other, may not be to them a state of temptation and sorrow, but of holiness, joy, and perfect indissoluble friendship. Give them grace to overlook each other's infirmities, to cherish a due regard for each other's opinions and feelings, to be just to each other's virtues and good intentions, to improve each other's understanding and heart, and to travel together hand in hand the road which leads to heaven and thee. Enable them, by persevering affection, by a worthy deportment, and by united devotions, to soften to each other the unavoidable cares of life, to alleviate its sorrows, to increase its innocent enjoyments, and to edify their friends and all around them. Prosper, we beseech thee, their useful worldly pursuits, if thine infinite wisdom perceives this to be good for them; and, should they be visited with affliction, let them find a never-failing Friend and Supporter in thee. And, having been pious, virtuous, and happy in their connection here on earth, may they be at last united in the realms of everlasting love and bliss, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following exhortation may be addressed to the parties after marriage.

It will be of great advantage and importance to you, My Friends, to consider frequently and seriously the sacred engagement, which you have now made. Marriage is the union of one man with one woman for their joint happiness, and for the pious education of children, where God gives them; and, by the original appointment of the Almighty, confirmed by our Saviour, (Genesis ii. 24. Matthew xix. 4. 5. 6.) this union is to be dissolved only by death. It was intended by the benevolent Parent of mankind, not to be a hard yoke, but a means of

promoting our true happiness, and of exercising us in the best and most amiable dispositions. Let the necessary care and diligence be, therefore, employed for the accomplishment of these momentous ends. Let it be always remembered by both of you, that your own welfare is concerned in the part which you act in this relation, and that you are accountable for your behaviour in it to the omniscient and righteous Judge of the living and the dead. Abhor and fly from every thought, word, and deed, which might have the slightest tendency to lessen your mutual esteem, to taint the chastity and purity of your hearts, and to tempt you to the violation of conjugal fidelity. Let piety, peace, concord, mildness and forbearance, be your constant companions and guides. Expect not to find each other faultless; but recollect, that you are to endeavour to become so. Hope not for perfect and unmixed happiness: while you are in this world, a variety of trials must be borne; but, if you faithfully discharge the duties of the state into which you have entered, your afflictions will be mitigated and your satisfactions be multiplied by sharing them with each other as most intimate friends and partners. Be not ambitious of superiority and power; but be ambitious of the honour of bearing each other's burdens, of preventing each other's wishes, and of promoting each other's happiness by works of love. Prefer the pleasures of domestic society to all other earthly enjoyments, and rest assured that they are the most innocent and durable. Be particularly careful to sanctify your connexion by devotional exercises; let the God of heaven be acknowledged and worshipped in your family; be affectionate instructors, monitors, guardians, and supporters of each other's virtue, and examples to all who may dwell under your roof. Should God bless you with children, let it be your chief concern, not that they

should be rich or great in the world, but that they should be educated as Christians; and let it be your highest delight and your noblest employment, to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.—By following these counsels, you will be preserved from numberless evils, vexations, and sins. By obeying these dictates of religion, you will render your days on earth tranquil, possess a conscience void of offence, and secure the approbation of Almighty God. And, by advancing each other's best interests as immortal beings, you will be enabled to rejoice habitually in the precious hope, that, although you shall be separated by death for a little while, you will meet again, with new improvements, and in happier circumstances that shall admit of no termination. May God grant you such felicity through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SECTION XIII.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

It is customary for the minister to make a short and suitable address to the family and others who join the procession, at the grave, in the church, or at the house of the deceased. After the corpse is laid in the grave, the minister may make use of the following form.

Man, who is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death. Of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty,

72 THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts: shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death to fall from thee.

To this prayer the minister may add any other which he shall judge proper; or he may, at his discretion, use one of the following prayers.

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord; and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burthen of the flesh, are in joy and felicity: we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labours. And we beseech thee, that we, with all who have loved and served thee, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thine everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; who also hath taught us by his holy Apostle St. Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for those who sleep in him: we humbly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us up from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him; and that, at the general resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

73

prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Eternal and unchangeable God, by whose Providence we have been called to witness this instance of mortality, and in whose hand is the life of every human being: enable us, we beseech thee, to lay to heart the serious lessons, which are now addressed to us. Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply ourselves unto wisdom, set our affections upon the things which are above, perform without delay the great work which thou hast given us to do, live by the faith of thy Son, and habitually look forward to his second coming. Comfort and support the spirits of thy servants, who mourn over this afflicting dispensation. Let their hearts be stayed upon thee, and rejoice in the precious discoveries of thy word. And let them find by their own experience, that all things work together for good to them that love thee. Amen.

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise Providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased *brother*, (*sister*) we therefore commit *his* body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall raise his followers to the participation of his own happiness and glory in heaven.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

inspired by the Holy Spirit, beginning of the world.
 Great things have been accomplished by the Father,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
 Amen.

Heavenly and merciful God, by whose Pro-
 vidence we have been called to witness this instance
 of resurrection, and in whose hand is the life of every
 human being, we beseech thee to lay
 to rest the souls of the departed, which are now ad-
 dressed to us. Teach us so to number our days,
 that we may apply ourselves unto wisdom, set out
 all our works and doings, that we may not
 have anything to do but give by the faith of thy Son,
 and patiently look forward to his second coming.
 Comfort and support the spirits of thy servants,
 who mourn over this afflictive dispensation. Let
 their hearts be stayed upon thee, and rejoice in the
 precious promises of thy word. And let them
 and by their faithful and obedient things work
 together to good, that they may have thee. Amen.
 I beseech thee, O God, in
 thy great goodness, to raise up and reward the
 soul of our deceased brother, (name), we therefore
 commit his body to the ground; earth to earth,
 ashes to ashes, that, through a longing for the gene-
 ral resurrection in the last day, and the life of the
 world to come through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who shall raise the dead to new participation
 of his own happiness and glory in heaven.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
 God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be
 with us all. Amen.

PRAYERS

FOR THE USE OF

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER

OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY G. & D. BILLMEYER.

1814.

PART I PRAYERS

FOR THE USE OF FAMILIES

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS PRAYERS FOR THE LORD'S DAY MORNING

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our spirits,
who art good to all thy creatures; into thee
would we lift up our souls, and magnify thy name
together.
Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves; we
are thy people, and thy inheritance, O Lord. We
will serve thee with gladness, and come into thy
presence with thanksgiving.
I praise thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name
forever, and the majority. Every conceivable per-
fection centers in thy name. The earth is full
of thy goodness; in thee we have life, and
have our being. I thank thee for the light of thy
face, and for the peace of thy love. I praise thee
for the new creation, and for the new every-
thing; great is thy faithfulness. We have slept
in safety, and now we are awake, for thou hast
sustained us. We rejoice in thy Providence, and
give thee praise and thanksgiving for all thy
works. While we praise thee, heavenly Father, for the
light of the sun, we would bless thee more espe-
cially for the light of the Gospel of Christ Jesus,
the sun of righteousness. We bless thee, O Lord,

PART I.

PRAYERS

FOR THE USE OF FAMILIES.

1.

PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our spirits, who art good to all thy creatures; unto thee would we lift up our souls, and magnify thy name together.

Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves; we are thy people, and the children of thy family. We will serve thee with gladness, and come into thy presence with thanksgiving.

Thine is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the majesty. Every conceivable perfection centers in thy character. The earth is full of thy goodness; in thee we live, and move, and have our being. Through the care of thy Providence we continue to this day. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. We have slept in safety, and are risen in peace, for thou hast sustained us. We rejoice in thy Providence, and give thanks unto thee with our whole hearts.

While we praise thee, heavenly Father, for the light of the sun, we would bless thee more especially for the light of the gospel of Christ Jesus, the sun of righteousness. We bless thee, that we

are called to be his disciples and partakers of his resurrection and glory. We bless thee, that, notwithstanding our unworthiness, thou hast still continued unto us the means of true religion, and dost from time to time permit us to unite with our brethren in the public services of thy house. We bless thee for the return of this day of sacred rest, and we desire to spend it in the performance of those duties for which it is set apart. Help us, we beseech thee, to attend with earnestness to the things that concern our everlasting peace. Grant that all our sentiments, words, and actions may be holy and unblamable in thy sight. Direct us in our private meditations and in the study of thy word. Fill us with the spirit of devotion in the society of our fellow-worshippers, and open our minds to the truths which may be proposed to us from the sacred oracles of revelation. By attending upon the ordinances of religion this day, may we grow wiser and better, more pure and holy, more meek and humble, more resigned and thankful, and more heartily disposed to follow Christ and to keep his commandments.

Merciful God, we beseech thee to communicate the happiness, which we enjoy as men and Christians, to all our brethren. Comfort those, who are bowed down by want or sorrow. Let this be a day of improvement and holy pleasure to every congregation of those who profess the name of thy Son. Enlighten and cheer the minds, and prosper the labours of all the ministers of thy word. Cause thy name to be known in all the earth, and let the whole world be filled with thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

79

2.

PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY Evening.

FATHER of mercies, by whose goodness we have been preserved, we come before thee to acknowledge the riches of thy grace. Thy name is excellent; thy works are marvellous; in thy favour there is life; and much peace have they who love thy laws. We thank thee for all the happiness of our lives, for the stores of nature, for the advantages of society, for the comforts of friendship, and for the satisfactions which flow from our domestic relations. We thank thee for every opportunity of improving our mental faculties, for the inestimable discoveries and hopes of thy gospel, and for the appointment of public worship. We thank thee for the blessings bestowed upon us this sacred day. We are ashamed to reflect, with how little ardour we engage in thy work, and acknowledge before thee our manifold errors and sins. Thou pure and perfect Spirit, forgive of thine infinite compassion any distraction of mind or coldness of affection, which may have attended the discharge of our religious duties; and assist us to love thee more and to serve thee better in the time to come. Preserve us from being satisfied with the form of godliness. Whatever seeds of truth may have fallen into our hearts, grant that they may take deep root and be abundantly fruitful. By the lessons we have learnt, prepare us for resuming and prosecuting our worldly employments with a becoming frame of mind; and help us to pass through every future scene of life under the guidance of Christian principles.

Whilst thou shalt see fit to continue us in this world, it is our earnest desire and steadfast resolution to answer the ends for which thou hast made

us. In the presence of each other, and before thee the all-seeing witness and judge, we do at this time form the most serious purpose to guard against all vicious appetites and passions, to behave with fidelity, prudence, and kindness towards one another, to be diligent in the business of our several stations, to perform every social office with conscientious care, and to remember the account which we must render unto thee for our deportment here.

Strengthen us by thy Spirit, O God, in this resolution. Protect us this night against the dangers to which we may be exposed. And, when death shall be our lot, enable us to observe its approach with composure, and receive us into thy presence where there is fullness of joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

3.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY Morning.

O THOU Creator, Governor, and supporter of men! thou dwellest in light, and art the father of lights. Grateful for the care which thou hast exercised over us during the night past, we would cheerfully submit ourselves to thy guidance through the day upon which we have entered. Keep us in thy faith and fear, and secure us from every evil of soul and body. Impress on our hearts a solemn sense of thy universal presence. Preserve us from any snares which may lie in our way, and especially from the sins which most easily beset us. Prepare us for new occurrences, whether prosperous or adverse, and quicken us in the discharge of every obligation. Let not continued peace and comfort make us forgetful of thee, or corrupt our minds.

Thou prolongest our lives, that we may attain more and more the true end of life. May this day witness some improvement in knowledge, piety, and virtue. May it witness our diligence in that occupation, to which thou callest us — We desire and purpose to keep consciences void of offence: but the experience which we have had of our frailty makes us diffident of our strength. Our confidence is in thy power to confirm our faith and invigorate our obedience. We implore thine aid, that we may run in the way of thy commandments. Smile on our endeavours after righteousness and usefulness. Teach us to feel the whole value of our days on earth; and when they shall be finished, vouchsafe to receive us into the light and bliss of thy glorious presence, through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

4.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY Evening.

O THOU infinitely great and adorable Majesty of heaven and earth! thou art ever present to all thy creatures. Thou knowest our down sitting and our up rising; thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways.

Preserver of men! at the close of another day, we would render unto thee our thanks for all the mercies, by which our lives have been supported and rendered happy. Thy sun has cheered us with its rays, thy air has fanned the spark of life within us, and by thy goodness we have been fed with food convenient for us. In grateful confidence of thy mercies, we will now lay ourselves down in peace; assured, that, if it be thy will, we shall sleep in

safety, and rise on another morning with renewed health and vigour. Forgive the transgressions of the past day and of all past time. Whatever has been irregular in our dispositions, whatever we have done which we ought not to have done, or omitted which we ought to have performed, be pleased mercifully to pardon; and grant that our circumspection in future may be increased.

Hitherto thou hast helped us, provided for our necessities, and crowned our lives with loving kindness. Truly our hope is in thee, and under the shadow of thy wings will we put our trust. We dedicate ourselves unto thee as our God and guide through life, our support and comfort in death, and after death our everlasting portion and felicity. Let thy goodness continue to follow us; and enable us to express our thankfulness by a growing holiness and resemblance of thee.

Holy Watchman of thy people, who dost never slumber nor sleep; thou King eternal, immortal and invisible! unto thee be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

5.

PRAYER FOR TUESDAY Morning.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we thy needy creatures render thee our humble praise for thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to this day, and especially for having delivered us from the dangers of the past night. To thy watchful providence we owe it, that we have been kept in safety, and that no disturbance hath come nigh our dwelling. For these thy mercies we bless and praise thee, beseeching thee to accept this morning sacrifice. And since it is of thy goodness, O gra-

cious Father, that our existence is prolonged; we here devote both our bodies and souls to thy service, in a godly, righteous, and sober life. Strengthen us, we beseech thee, in this resolution; that, as we grow in age, we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Have compassion, we pray thee, on our infirmities; and give us the constant assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from sin and excited to our duty. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of thy displeasure, such a remembrance of the great day of judgment, and such a grateful sense of thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee. Keep us temperate in our enjoyments and diligent in our callings, just and upright in our dealings, peaceable, compassionate, and ready to do good to all men. Direct us in all our ways; prosper the work of our hands; defend us from calamities and sufferings; or, if thou shalt be pleased to visit us with them, enable us to bear them with patience, and to be contented with our condition.—These things, and whatever else is necessary and good for us, we implore, with humble reliance upon thine infinite clemency in Christ Jesus our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

6.

PRAYER FOR TUESDAY Evening.

MOST merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins; we come before thee sensible of our own unworthiness, and acknowledge our numerous transgressions of thy righteous laws. Look upon us, we beseech thee, with compassion; pardon, of thy free grace,

all our errors and sins; give us proper views of the great evil of them; amend the tempers and dispositions of our souls; and cleanse us from all vicious thoughts, unlawful designs, and inordinate desires. May we never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath, but always retire to our rest in peace, charity, and good-will, with a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards men.

Accept, O Lord, our intercessions for all mankind. Be gracious unto thy church; let the light of thy gospel shine upon all nations; bless all in authority over us; do good to our relations, friends, and neighbours; reward our benefactors; pardon those who have done or wish us evil, and give them better minds; be merciful to all who are in any trouble; and do thou, the God of pity, minister to their several necessities.

Receive our thanks, great God, for our being, our reason, our health, our friends, our food, our raiment, and all the other comforts and conveniencies of life. Above all, we adore thy mercy in sending thine only Son to redeem us from sin and eternal death, and to give us the knowledge of our duty to thee. We bless thee for thy patience with us, notwithstanding our many and great provocations; for all the directions, assistances and comforts of thy Holy Spirit; and for all thy benefits and favours. Continue them to us, we beseech thee; and give us grace to shew our thankfulness by sincere obedience to thy laws.

Defend us this night from all dangers and mischiefs, and bestow on us such refreshing sleep as may fit us for the duties of the following day, if it shall please thee to prolong our lives. Make us ever mindful of the time when we shall lie down in the dust; and grant us grace always to live in such a manner, that we may never be afraid to die.

Whether living or dying, may we be thine, through the mediation of thy Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer up these our imperfect prayers: Amen.

7.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY Morning.

LORD God Almighty, we will praise thee with our whole hearts, and shew forth thy goodness to the children of men.

Thou hast placed the sun and the moon in the heavens, to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and the night. All creatures wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou hast preserved us and provided for us in the helpless state of infancy, and guided us in the dangerous paths of youth. Thou hast supplied our daily wants, and brought us to the present moment in peace and safety. Through the darkness of the night, thine eye has been upon us; and we appear before thee this morning, surrounded with the gifts of thy bounty.

Accept, O merciful Father, our unfeigned thanksgivings for these, and for all our spiritual blessings; and help us so to improve and apply them, that we may be happy in thy favour, both in this world, and that which is to come.

May we be in thy fear all the day long, serve thee with pure affection, and enjoy the good things of life in innocence. In our domestic relations, may we be all of one mind, love as brethren, and live in peace; that thou, the God of peace and love, mayest be with us. May all holy dispositions be established in our souls, and our lives be adorned with all

good actions. May we rejoice habitually in thy government, and in the hope of thine approbation; and finally be received into thine everlasting kingdom, through thy grace in thy blessed Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

8.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY Evening.

O MOST merciful and gracious God! we thy servants present ourselves before thee, this evening, to render thanks unto thee for all thy mercies, to confess our sins, to renew our good resolutions, and to commend ourselves to the care of thy providence.

Blessed be thy name for all the powers, supports and enjoyments of our nature; for all our opportunities of securing happiness; for our advantages as the disciples of thy Son, for his doctrines, precepts, example, sufferings, and resurrection. Great is thy goodness to us and to all the children of men; and we confess, that we are not worthy of the mercies which we have received at thy hands. In many things, we have all offended. Thou knowest our follies, and our sins are not hidden from thee. We acknowledge them with sorrow and penitence; we desire to walk before thee in newness of life; and we beseech thee, who despisest not a contrite heart, to pardon all our iniquities and to be merciful unto us.

Teach us, O God, to discern between good and evil; and enable us, in the midst of the temptations of the world, to hold fast our integrity and to persevere in well-doing. Grant, that neither hope nor fear may ever lead us to desire or to do what thou forbiddest. Help us to be harmless and undefiled, to aim continually at the mark of our high

calling, and to fight the good fight of faith, that we may obtain the prize.

Our outward circumstances in life we leave entirely to the disposal of thy wisdom and goodness. We commit ourselves to thy care through the ensuing night and the remainder of our days, with a steadfast persuasion, that, if it be best for us, thou wilt defend us from evil. Whatever thou shalt appoint, help us to place our whole confidence in thee. Leave us not, neither forsake us, O thou God of our salvation. Bless our friends, and guide them by thine unerring Spirit. Have pity upon all to whom wearisome nights and restless days are appointed. And raise all men to that land of perfect felicity, where Jesus reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

9.

PRAYER FOR THURSDAY Morning.

O GOD, the giver of all good, who delightest in the happiness of thy creatures! we would raise our hearts to thee in the exercise of devout affections. Having daily united to partake of thy bounty, we would unite to give our thanks unto thee.

Thou hast been continually with us, rejoicing to do us good; and thy mercies are more than can be numbered. Thou hast upheld our souls in life, and been our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Thou hast continually fed and clothed us, and given us many things to enjoy. When we lie down to rest, thou art our defence; and when we awake, we are still with thee. Thou art leading us by the mediation of thy Son to a better world, and causing all things to work together for our good.

Father, we praise thee and rejoice in thy goodness; and we desire at all times to approve ourselves unto thee. Preserve us, we beseech thee, from every secret sin. Dispose and assist us to keep our hearts, and to watch over our tongues. Enable us faithfully to obey thee in every situation, and fill our minds with religious veneration and gratitude. Grant, that we may heartily unite our endeavours to promote each other's happiness, bear with each other's infirmities, reprove each other in the spirit of meekness, put away all pride and envy, all discontent and fretfulness, all suspicion and jealousy, and travel together with increasing affection to the land of everlasting joy and love.

Encouraged by our past experience, we humbly commit our persons and concerns to thy direction, and confide in thine unbounded mercy, as revealed and pledged to us in Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

 10.

PRAYER FOR THURSDAY Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee! receive in mercy the prayers and the praises of thy children.

We adore thee as the greatest and the best of beings, the source of all power, wisdom, goodness, and happiness. Without thee we can do nothing; and on thee we depend from day to day. Thine energy sustains, thy presence animates, thy gracious influence blesses the Universe. Our times are in thy hands; our advantages and sorrows are dispensed by thy Providence. Thy mercy has given us a Redeemer, who is able to save unto the uttermost; and thine unmerited love adds

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

89

to our days and satisfactions, that we may be drawn to devote our hearts to thy service.

We confess, O Lord, that we have disobeyed thy laws and been unmindful of thy goodness. We lament with sincere sorrow our errors and transgressions. We desire to forsake every evil way; and we humbly trust in thy grace for the forgiveness of our sins. Being justified by faith, may we have peace with thee, be saved from the dominion of vice, and be filled with the fruits of thy Spirit. May we be at all times sensible of the vanity of the world, of the deceitfulness of sin, and of its certain tendency to make us miserable. May we entertain just convictions of the worth of our own souls, and of the value and importance of the glory to which we are called. May we set our affections upon the things above, be armed against the allurements and terrors of this transitory state, and hold ourselves in constant readiness to depart hence and to stand before our Judge.

Keep us this night, Almighty Guardian, under thy watchful eye. If it be agreeable to thy will, let no evil befall us or ours. Have mercy upon those, for whose welfare we feel particularly solicitous. Comfort and sustain all who are in trouble and adversity. Order all things for us as seemeth right in thy sight; and do us good now and evermore according to thy promises declared unto us by Jesus Christ our Lord. And through him be glory unto thee for ever and ever. Amen.

11.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY Morning.

ETERNAL and incomprehensible Jehovah, Father and Friend of the children of men! we would acknowledge thy perfections and feel

our dependance on thee. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, and with thee there is no variableness nor shadow of turning. Thou art the righteous Lord, whose countenance beholdeth the upright. Thou acceptest not the persons of men, but wilt render unto the rich and the poor according to their works. Thou art good, and ever ready to forgive the penitent.

We thank thee, Lord of heaven and earth, for all that thou hast done for us. Thou hast brought us into life, and continually watched over us. Thou hast again preserved us, and granted us the refreshment of quiet repose. Through thy goodness we appear before thee at this time, in health and ease, with the free use of our reason, and in the enjoyment of many blessings. What shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits? We desire to show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; and to spend this day and the remainder of our days in a uniform obedience to thy holy commands.

Incline our hearts, we beseech thee, to thy precepts. Endue us with that simplicity and godly sincerity, which are well-pleasing unto thee. Teach us to live by the faith of thy Son, who hath loved us and given himself for us. Preserve us from thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, and clothe us with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Assist us to take heed unto our ways, to direct our affairs with discretion, to be temperate in all things, to walk within our house with perfect hearts, and to order our whole conversation and conduct according to thy will.

Through all the changes of our lives, grant, O God, that we may be without covetousness, receive thy gifts with thankful hearts, enjoy them with sobriety and benevolence, and endure afflictions with such patience that they may work

out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. And unto thee, the God of all consolation and grace in Christ Jesus, be endless honour and praise. Amen.

12.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, the Parent of all the families of the earth! we thy children unite to present unto thee the tribute justly due to thy name.

We thank thee, that thou hast created us in thine own image, made us capable of knowledge and wisdom, endowed us with social affections, and implanted in us a sense of good and evil. We praise thee for our continual support, and acknowledge that thou daily loadest us with benefits. Above all, we bless thee for thine inestimable love in sending thine only-begotten Son, to instruct, to guide, to save us from sin and misery, and to elevate us to an inheritance which is incorruptible in heaven. We will bless thee, O Lord, at all times; thy praise shall be continually in our mouths.

While we acknowledge before thee, O God, thine incessant bounty and eternal love; we confess with shame, that we have not been as careful to improve and make suitable returns for them, as it was our duty to be. Though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, we have rebelled against thee. But we desire to become wiser and better; and we beseech thee, who art slow to anger, to pardon all our transgressions. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation.

Lead us by thy gracious hand in the path of our duty; and, in the time of temptation, let thy good Spirit be with us, to keep us from falling. May

our minds be purified from all sinful affections, and be deeply impressed and regularly influenced by every religious truth. May we be steadfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Thou art the Protector of all that put their trust in thee. We pray thee to show compassion to such as are in pain, sickness, or distress. We commend ourselves, our friends, and all our concerns to thy holy keeping. Defend us by thy power, direct us by thy wisdom, provide for us by thy goodness; and, when our heart and our flesh shall fail, be thou, O God, the strength of our hearts and our portion forever. Amen.

13.

PRAYER FOR SATURDAY Morning.

O GOD, who givest unto all creatures life and breath and all things! we thy servants would reverence thine infinite perfections, and adore thee as the fountain of all virtue and felicity.

Thou art the same in power, wisdom, and goodness, throughout all generations. Thou upholdest every being by thy mighty word, and preservest the regular succession of day and night, of summer and winter, of seed-time and harvest. By thine appointment, the sun ariseth, and man goeth forth to his work. The earth is thine and the fullness thereof.

Blessed be thou, our merciful Father, for the protection afforded us, for the refreshment of sleep, for our measure of ease and health, for every present comfort, and for all our hopes of future good. To thy tender compassion alone we ascribe them, and are sensible of the vast obligation which they

lay upon us to love and serve thee with every faculty of our bodies and souls.

Let the consciousness of the homage and fidelity we owe to thee accompany us wherever we go; that we may live in all good conscience; and that, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we may do all to thy glory. Teach us to be prudent in ordering our affairs, industrious in performing the business of our stations, moderate in our desires and innocent in our enjoyments, careful in redeeming the time, resigned under chastisement, courteous and candid to all around us, equitable and compassionate to those with whom we shall have to deal, grateful to our friends and benefactors, and generous and forgiving to any that may injure or offend us. Let the same mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus. Enable us heartily to rejoice in his salvation, and cause all things to work together for our eternal welfare through the riches of thy grace. Amen.

14.

PRAYER FOR SATURDAY Evening.

GREAT and glorious God! the heavens are thy throne, and the earth is thy footstool. Thou art nigh unto all them that call upon thee in sincerity and truth. Thou art conducting thy children in the path of peace; and thou continually affordest them the supplies which they need.

We thank thee, that we have been preserved through another day and another week. We thank thee, that thine arm has been our support, thy shield our defence, thy Providence and Spirit our guardian and guide. We thank thee for our personal and family blessings, (for our deliverance from dangers and calamities,) and for every agree-

able and happy circumstance of our condition. We thank thee, above all, that we are brought to the knowledge of thee and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; that we have the promises of thy mercy; and that, though this frail existence is fleeting away, we have the assured hope of immortal felicity.—Thy compassions fail not, great God, though our days on earth are diminishing. Be thou exalted above the heavens! and be thy sacred name praised for ever and ever!

Merciful Father! blot out, we pray thee, the sins that have been committed by us in the week which is now drawing to a close, and in the whole course of our departed days. We lament, that we have often been led astray and have been chargeable with many negligences and omissions. We confess them unto thee with an humble and contrite spirit; and beseech thee to cleanse our consciences from evil works, to lift on us the light of thy countenance, and to give us the blessedness of those whose transgressions are covered.

Dispose us to realize fully, that we are the monuments of thy sparing mercy; in order that our hearts may be consecrated to thee. Illuminate our minds with thy heavenly truth. Preserve us from all false judgments concerning the ends of living and the way to happiness. Secure us from the influence of vain customs and evil examples. Increase our faith; enliven our hope; enlarge our charity; inspire us with every pious, virtuous, and amiable disposition; and help us to become Christians, not in name only, but in deed.

Another step has been taken towards eternity; week after week, and month after month, are passing away; and we know, that our times are in thy hand, and that there may be to us but a few more days in this world. Gracious God, suffer us not to forget the shortness and precariousness of life, or

the solemnities of judgment and eternity. Prepare us to meet our last end with a serene and peaceful mind. Incline us so to pass through things temporal, that we may not forget the things which are eternal. Help us to love each other as beings, who have each other's immortal happiness at heart; and, after we shall have been separated from one another by death, be pleased to unite us in holy fellowship before the throne of God and the lamb.

We commend our bodies and our souls to thy care; and beseech thee to do good unto all men. We offer up these our prayers in the name of Jesus, through whom we trust that we shall be pardoned and accepted now and evermore. Amen.

15.

GRACE BEFORE AND AFTER MEAT.

ALMIGHTY Father! the blessings, which we are about to receive, are thy gift. May they be enjoyed with a sense of thy love to us and all mankind. Amen.

WE acknowledge, heavenly Father, that thou art the source of all our enjoyments. Help us to receive thy bounty with grateful, contented, and obedient hearts. Amen.

THE eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

BLESSED be thy name, O thou author of all good, for this present refreshment and for all other mercies. May they strengthen us to the performance of every duty as disciples of thy Son. Amen.

AGAIN we experience, O God, that thou art good. May thy goodness be continued to us, and be extended to all mankind. Amen.

THOU hast afforded us another proof of thy benevolent care, O thou Parent of men! may it fill us with gratitude to thee, and dispose us to be kind to others even as thou art kind unto us. Amen.

THOU, Lord, art our Shepherd; we shall not want. May we never be wanting in our duty to thee; and may thy mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Amen.

GOD of compassion! thou fillest our hearts with food and gladness. — Make us duly thankful, we beseech thee; and be pleased to feed the hungry, and to provide for all the needy, now and evermore. Amen.

DIVINE Benefactor! — thou hast blessed our labours for the meat which perisheth. Help us to labour successfully for that meat, which en-
 dureth unto everlasting life. Amen.

16.

PRAYER FOR A FAMILY *at the close of the year.*

ETERNAL Jehovah! in thee we live and move and have our being. In thy hand is our breath; it is because thou hast sustained us, that we have continued to this day. With praise to thee, the God of our lives, we come into thy presence; with thanks to thee, the unfailing source of mercy! Thou didst bring us into this world, and place us on this stage of action. Thou didst uphold us in the helpless days of infancy, and preserve us from the innumerable evils to which we were then exposed. We tasted of thy bounty, before we were capable of perceiving the hand from which it came. With every returning year thy favours have been multiplied upon us. Thou hast been with us and hast helped us in all our troubles. Often hast thou healed our diseases, removed our sorrows, and renewed our strength. Thy candle has shined upon our tabernacle; thy corn has nourished us; thy smiles have gladdened our hearts. Whilst many have been cut off and have passed into an awful eternity, we are yet numbered with the living. Whilst thousands have fallen at our right hand and our left, we continue to stand, witnesses that thou art good to the evil and unthankful. Through the riches of thy forbearance and long-suffering, thou art continuing us in a state of trial, giving unto us space for repentance, and favouring us with thy holy gospel and with all necessary means of grace and reformation.

God of compassion, take not thy Spirit from us. Continue to us thy heavenly blessings. Prepare us for future changes in our condition, and let them be sanctified to our truest interest and hap-

piness. We commit ourselves to thy care ; we devote ourselves to thy service ; we refer all events concerning us to thine infinite wisdom and fatherly goodness. Lead us seasonably to consider the things which belong to our peace. Give us realizing views of death and a judgment to come. Enable us to depart from the world, when thou shalt call us away, with tranquillity and comfort of mind, exempt from the terrors of guilt ; and bring us to the enjoyment of thy favour in the realms of glory, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

17.

PRAYER FOR A FAMILY at the beginning of the year.

ALmighty God, God of the spirits of all flesh, Preserver and Ruler of the children of men ! hear in mercy thy servants, who raise their hearts unto thee. We acknowledge, that, in seasons past, we have often been too earnest about the things of sense and time, too regardless of the objects of faith and futurity. We confess, that we have too often walked in a vain show, and disquieted ourselves in vain. We cannot attempt to deny, that we have been frequently undutiful and unthankful. Wouldst thou judge us without mercy, we should be utterly destitute of hope. Wouldst thou deal with us according to our sins, we should be miserable indeed. But we rejoice, that thou desirest not the ruin of thy creatures, but rather that they should repent and live. It is our desire to cast off all the unfruitful works of darkness, and to walk as children of the light and of the day. It is our purpose, that this year shall witness our

greater reformation from every thing that is amiss in us, and our increasing improvement in the graces of the Christian character.

If it be consistent with the purposes of thine inscrutable wisdom, we pray that our lives may be spared; not merely that we may enjoy an animal existence, but that we may be furnished with an opportunity of doing good and becoming better. We commit all our concerns to thee; and would submit to those circumstances, which thou, who alone knowest what is best for us, shalt ordain. If thou wilt, we desire the continuance of health and comfort. If thou shouldst send sickness or adversity to us, may we be prepared for these and all other changes of our situation. If it be thy decree, that this year any of us shall die; may we be ready for our departure. We dare not say, that we will do this or that: but we would cherish one resolution, to become and always to be such persons as thou shalt be pleased to approve.

Heavenly Father! do thou preserve us from every injurious delay. Let not the night of darkness, in which no man can work, overtake us unawares. Forbid, that we should ever presume on life, or boast of to morrow, or be immoderately attached to earthly things. May we always do with diligence what thou appointest us to perform. If death shall approach us by slow advances, may it find us well employed; and if we are suddenly called to exchange worlds, may it not be our lot to have treasured up fear and remorse.—Hear us, we beseech thee, in these our supplications, which we offer up in the name of our great Mediator. And unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, be honour and glory, for ever and ever, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A FAMILY in behalf of a
sick person.

O GOD, who hast taught us, at all times and in every condition, to make our requests known unto thee ! We would adore thee as the author and arbiter of life, and the disposer of sickness and of death. We offer up our humble supplications in behalf of thy servant, who is labouring under pain and disease. Look down upon *him* (*her*) with mercy ; let the consideration of thy goodness and wisdom strengthen and comfort *his* soul ; and let the precious doctrines and example of thy Son enable *him* to suffer with patience. We pray with submission to thy Providence, that thou wouldst be pleased to remove *his* disorder, and restore *him* to health. Graciously prolong *his* days upon earth ; and grant, that *his* affliction may produce in *him* the fruits of righteousness, to the honour of thy name. By the sadness of *his* countenance, may *his* heart be made better ; and may *he* long live, to manifest *his* thankfulness to thee, and to do good in *his* generation.

But, if this affliction should be unto death, may thy servant be prepared to give *himself* up into thy hands, with Christian fortitude, in joyful expectation of thy mercy unto eternal life. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all *his* sins, and a firm reliance on thy gracious promises in Christ Jesus our Lord. May the hope of thy favour support *him* in *his* last hour ; may *he* leave the world in peace of mind, and in charity with all men ; and may *he* be received into thy heavenly kingdom, and be made a partaker of that happiness, which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive.

O God, teach us to be wise; console our hearts; and command thy blessing upon thy servant, even life evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

19.

*PRAYER FOR A FAMILY in behalf of a
sick child.*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, thou art the fountain of all good, the refuge of the distressed, the friend and comforter of those who look up to thy throne for help. We would offer up our prayers unto thee in behalf of the child, on whom thou hast seen fit to lay thine afflicting hand. We beseech thee, if it be consistent with thy wise and holy will, to bless the means employed for *his* recovery, and to raise *him* up to health and strength. Suffer not the wishes of *his* parents to be disappointed; but in thy great mercy spare *him*, to be the comfort and support of their advancing years, and to glorify thy name by obeying thee and becoming useful in the world. But, whatever thou hast determined concerning *him*, thy will, O God, be done! Preserve us from fainting under thy chastisements; and, if thou takest *him* away from the world, vouchsafe to receive his soul into that blessed land, where sorrow and death are unknown. Into thy hands we commit *him*, ourselves, and all whom we love; and we humbly pray, that, by all the dispensations of thy Providence, we may be trained up for that state, where thou wilt wipe away all tears from the eyes of mourners, and where pious friends and relations shall rejoice with each other for ever and ever, through thine unspeakable love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

20.

THANKSGIVING OF A FAMILY, for the recovery of a Member of the same from dangerous sickness.

MOST merciful and gracious God, the Creator and Preserver of the universe! we would raise our hearts with grateful sentiments unto thee, from whom alone cometh our help. We acknowledge, that thou rulest over all; that of thee, and through thee, and to thee are all things. Thou speakest, and it is done; thou commandest, and it stands fast. The skill of the physician, and the power of medicine are derived from thee. It is thou, who healest all our diseases, who redeemest our lives from destruction, and renewest our strength; and to thy name alone be all the glory and honour. We render unto thee our united and hearty thanks for thy great goodness, manifested to thy servant, whom thou hast been pleased to raise from the bed of sickness, and to restore to a capacity of performing the duties and enjoying the comforts of life. To thy kind Providence we ascribe it, that this affliction hath not been unto death, and that the voice of health and rejoicing is again heard in our habitation. We praise thee, O Lord, for thou hast dealt bountifully with us. May thy servant, whom thou hast rescued from the devouring grave, manifest *his* (*her*) sense of thy loving kindness, by devoting the remainder of his days to thee, as a true disciple of *his* Master and Redeemer, in a constant obedience to thy holy commandments. May the remembrance of what thou hast done for *his* soul confirm and establish *his* good resolutions, and inspire *him* with a lively confidence in thy protection and care. May this instance of thy mercy to our

family engage us all to love thee with our whole hearts, and to rejoice in thy Providence. While we have health and life, may we never abuse or trifle with them, but be careful to improve them well, and promote each other's happiness to the utmost of our ability.

It is better to trust in thee, O Lord, than to put confidence in man. Thou art our refuge and our God, and we will praise thee. We will give thanks unto thee; for thou art good, and thy mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

21.

A PRAYER on the death of any person in a Family.

ETERNAL God, without whose direction and Providence nothing can happen to us in life or death! out of the depths of affliction and sorrow we lift up our souls unto thee; for in thee alone are our help and hope.

Our existence is in thy hands, and all our enjoyments are at thy disposal. Thou didst at first call us into being by thy mighty power; and, when thou takest away our breath, we die and return to the dust.

In the midst of life, we are in death. To whom may we seek for succour, but unto thee, O Lord, who changest not, and who hast been the refuge of thy children in all generations? The Lord liveth; let our hearts rejoice; and let the God of our salvation be for ever exalted. Under all the troubles of this life, thy mercy is our confidence and support. Even as a father pitieth his children, so thou hast compassion upon the sons of men. Infinite wisdom and love direct all thy dispensations. Behold thy

servants, O Lord; do with us whatsoever seemeth good in thy sight. The Lord gave; and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be thy name, especially, that, according to thine abundant mercy, thou hast begotten us again, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ thy Son, to the lively hope of an inheritance, that is undefiled and fadeth not away.

Teach us, O most gracious God, by the instances of mortality which are before our eyes, and particularly by the present mournful event, to see how short and uncertain our abode on earth is, and so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom and seek the things which are above. May we spend the remainder of our time in this world in the faithful discharge of every Christian duty; and study to live in such a manner, as we shall wish to have done, when we come to die. Give us grace to follow the good examples of those, who have departed hence in thy faith and fear; that we may with them be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant, that we may labour with increasing zeal to become the true disciples of our blessed Saviour; and, after believing in him and obeying him here below, be united with him at thy right hand, and, with all whom we love and with the virtuous and pious of all nations and tongues, praise thee through endless ages. Amen.

22.

*A PRAYER FOR PARENTS, on the death
of a young child.*

O THOU, who hast appointed unto all men once to die, and who alone knowest what is really good for us! we fly to thee, beseeching thee to sanc-

tify unto us the bereavement, which fills our hearts with grief. Thou hast united us to the objects of our innocent affection by the tenderest ties; and we bless thee, that thou wast pleased to give us our departed child, and to bestow on us the satisfactions and joys which parents feel. Thou hast with the arrow of death taken away from us this beloved being; and we would bow with resignation to thy sovereign appointment. We commit its body to the grave, and its soul to thine infinite mercy. And we rejoice and thank thee, that our Lord Jesus Christ has declared: "suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid it not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

Compassionate Father! console our sorrows, we pray thee; and prevent us from despising thy chastenings, or fainting when rebuked of thee. Teach us more perfectly to do and suffer thy will, and to draw instruction from the adversities which we experience. Affect us with just convictions of the vanity of human life, and the uncertainty of earthly comforts. Dispose us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, and to give the most serious attention to the religious instruction and improvement of those whom thou hast preserved to us. Instead of attempting fully to explain the unsearchable mysteries of thy government, may our hearts rest assured, that all things shall work together for good to them that love thee; and may we steadily look forward to the resurrection of the just and the re-union of those who die in the Lord, through our exalted Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

PART II.

PRAYERS

FOR THE USE OF INDIVIDUALS.

1.

PRAYERS for the Morning.

O LORD, my heavenly Father, who hast safely brought me to the beginning of this day : defend me through the same by thy mighty power, and grant that I may neither fall into sin, nor run into any kind of danger. May all my words and doings be ordered agreeably to thy holy will ; and my heart be pure and acceptable in thy sight ! May it please thee to give such success, as thou seest to be best for me, to my labours and pursuits ; to bless my friends ; to do good unto all men ; and to raise them and me to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the gracious Preserver of the children of men ! accept the thanks of thy servant for the continual protection of thy providence. When I retire to rest, thou coverest me with the shades of the evening ; and, when I arise, thou visitest me with the day-spring from on high. Thy blessing is ever upon me, and day and night thy loving-kindness follows me. Enable me to be duly and habitually sensible of what I owe to thee, and

to rely upon thy care. I devote myself to thy service, and rejoice that my times are in thy hand. Help me, while I live, to live to thee; that, when I die, I may die to thee, and feel happy in the assurance of thy mercy and the hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

O GOD, by whose gracious Providence I have been preserved through the past night, and am risen this morning with the free use of my rational faculties and in the enjoyment of the blessings of life: I look up to thee as my highest benefactor and friend, and thank thee for the goodness which I have experienced, when unconscious of my being and incapable of guarding against danger and death. I humbly commit myself to thy protection this day, beseeching thee to defend me from evil and to give me those blessings which I need. Above all, be pleased, merciful Father, to pardon my errors; and assist me to shun temptation, to watch over my passions, to govern my tongue, to keep myself innocent and undefiled, and cheerfully to do that which is pleasing unto thee. Hear my prayer, and accept of me according to the covenant of thy love through Jesus Christ, Amen.

GOD of my life, another night has passed away; and I arise from death-like insensibility to new existence. Whether I sleep or am awake, I am encircled by thy mighty arms, and share thy love. Thou hast preserved my breath; thou inspirest me with new vigour; and thou callest me to new enjoyments. To thee my spirit ascends on the wings of devotion and gratitude, and consecrates all its powers and faculties. What may I not hope for

from thee, who continually watchest over me, and who hast not even spared thy well-beloved Son, but hast given him up freely for the children of men?

Animated by this confidence, I desire to go on my way rejoicing, to accomplish with cheerfulness whatever thou callest me to do, and to bear with patience whatever thou appointest me to suffer. This day, too, Father, thou wilt in mercy direct and help thy feeble child, proportion my strength to my duties and trials, and lead me in that path which thou knowest to be good for me. Let this persuasion support my soul, and enable me to entertain an habitual regard to thee. I am thine, by the strongest ties; and thine may I remain in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, thy Son, my Saviour. Amen.

2.

PRAYERS for the Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, thou hast bestowed upon me innumerable benefits, and hast added to all thy former mercies the safety and happiness which I have this day enjoyed. Forgive, I beseech thee, whatever may have been wrong in my feelings, conversation, or deportment; and fill me with an ardent solicitude to serve thee faithfully in the time that may yet remain. I commit myself and all my friends to thy gracious protection this night, reposing the confidence of my soul on thy Providence. After having renewed my strength by a peaceful repose, may I return to the duties of life with a steadfast resolution to do all thy will with diligence; that, when my days on earth shall be numbered, I may be received into thine eternal rest and joy through thy blessed Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, my heavenly Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: I raise my soul to thee, intreating thee to keep me continually under thy care. If it seem good in thy sight, grant me the blessing of quiet sleep; that I may arise in the morning in health, to labour in thy service and live in thy fear. Let it please thee to lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, and to give me peace both now and evermore. Amen.

O GOD, my great Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor! I approach thee with the grateful acknowledgments of my heart for the mercies, by which I have been cheered, and blessed this day. Whatever share of happiness I possess, whatever measure of prosperity I enjoy; to thee belongs the praise, and to thine unmerited favour alone I ascribe it. With whatever neglect, imperfection, and transgression of duty, I am chargeable; I take the shame of them to myself, and sincerely repent of them. Forgive me, I beseech thee, Parent of mercies, upon the gracious terms of thy gospel; and implant a right spirit within me. Vouchsafe to take me, and all in whom I am concerned, into thy care and protection through this night; and lead us, and the whole human family, in the paths of thy good Providence, to everlasting life and happiness, through thine infinite love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD of compassion! with what velocity all my days speed their flight and vanish away! how few are the traces which they leave behind! what is my existence on earth, but a dream, from which I shall awake, with joy or terror, to a new and never-ending life?

I will lay me down, and sleep in peace; for thou, O Lord, makest me to dwell in safety. Thou continually upholdest, and showerest down blessings upon me, and comfortest my soul in sorrow. All the successive periods of my pilgrimage are distinguished by the proofs of thy benevolence and mercy. O that they may also be distinguished by numerous proofs of my gratitude and obedience to thee! O that I may sleep in Jesus, when my last hour shall arrive, with the same composure with which I lie down upon my bed; with a mind, free from the stings and reproaches of guilt, conscious of inward sincerity and rectitude, firmly relying upon the promises sealed with my Saviour's blood, trusting through him in thy forbearance and paternal love, and rejoicing in the prospect of that blissful immortality which he brought to light!

My heavenly Father, establish thou this wish in my soul; make it the chief principle and motive of all I think and say and do; help me to revive and strengthen it every morning and evening. Make me perfect in every good work; and to thy name be all the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

3.

A PRAYER FOR A YOUNG PERSON.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who hast called me into being, that I might enjoy thy bounty here and be prepared for everlasting happiness hereafter! I look up to thee, the source of every blessing, beseeching thee to guide, to support and strengthen me. Surrounded with dangers, to whom should I apply for succour but to thee, who hast promised, that those who seek thee early and diligently shall find thee? O help me habitu-

ally to remember thee, my Creator, Benefactor, Redeemer, and Judge. Impress on my mind that reverence of thee, which is the beginning of wisdom. Dispose me to value, as I ought, the religion of thy blessed Son, and to make his doctrine and example my only directory and rule. Preserve me from all corrupt communications, from those youthful lusts which war against the soul, from all unchastity in thought, word, and action. Preserve my tongue from uttering falsehood, deceit, or impiety, and my hands from committing injustice. Give me a cautious, sober, and devout mind, that I may tremble at the hazard of ever standing in the way of sinners, or walking after the counsel of the ungodly, or following evil companions. Enable me to respect the lessons of age and experience; clothe me with the ornament of a humble, meek and contented spirit; and grant, that I may carefully avoid every thing, which I would blush to reveal to my fellow-men, and which would fill me with confusion and fear when I think of thee. Forbid, great God, that I should misapply or trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. Give me grace to find my highest delight in studying and obeying thy word, in approving myself to thee, in discharging my duty to those with whom I am connected, in labouring to become useful in my day and generation, and in forming those habits which will qualify me for the felicity of heaven.

I pray for these and for all other blessings in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, through whom I humbly hope to be pardoned and accepted now and evermore. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR AN AGED PERSON.

O THOU great author and supporter of life, who hast been the refuge of thy children in every age! to thee I raise my heart with thanksgiving and supplication. Thou hast maintained my frail existence, through many years, and crowned its successive periods with thy mercies. Where should I begin, or where should I cease, would I enumerate the favours, which thy hand has bestowed on me? With what incessant kindness hast thou supplied the wants both of my body and of my soul, opened to me many sources of satisfaction, shielded me from dangers and calamities, consoled and sustained me under trials and distresses, and conducted my feet into the path of peace! What gratitude do I owe to thee, especially, for the light and assistance of thy holy gospel, for its precious promises and animating hopes, and for the many opportunities and means of improvement which I have enjoyed!—Hitherto thou hast led and helped me; and my only trust is in thy sure and never-failing mercy.

Heavenly Father! I confess to thee my many errors and transgressions, with sorrow and repentance. Of thine infinite goodness forgive whatever I have thought or said or done amiss in the whole course of my pilgrimage. Let my hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. Whatever I may have neglected, whatever remains to be done, assist me to perform immediately and to the best of my ability. If I have injured any, enable me to discover it, that I may make due reparation before I go hence. Sanctify my mind, correct my passions, preserve me from every sin to which I am exposed. Save me from a selfish, censorious, se-

vere, impatient and dissatisfied temper. Teach me to be thankful to those who contribute to my ease and comfort, to rejoice in the happiness of all around me, and with a friendly spirit to instruct and admonish the rising generation. Help me, especially, to render the religion of thy Son, my Lord, amiable and venerable in the estimation of the young and of all around me, by setting them an example of cheerful piety and by entertaining an holy confidence in thy Providence and grace.

God of compassion! my strength is now often labour and sorrow, and I shall soon go down to the grave. Forsake me not, I beseech thee; cast me not off in the time of my old age. Let my affections be fixed upon the things which are above; let the prospect of heaven support me in every hour of suffering; and, when my heart and my flesh fail, be thou the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. Amen.

5.

A PRAYER FOR A CHILD.

O LORD! thou art my Father and my God: early will I seek, praise, and love thee. I bless thee for all thy goodness to me, and in particular for those tender ties which bind me to my parents. I thank thee for all their care and kindness; and rejoice to behold, in their unabating solicitude for my welfare, the image of thy love. Enable me, I beseech thee, to render unto them due honour and obedience, affection and gratitude. Assist me to submit with pleasure to their friendly guidance, to be patient under reproof, to abhor falsehood, to discharge all my obligations with a dutiful heart, and never to cause them tears and grief by any perverseness. Be pleased, O God,

114 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

to prolong their health and life, to uphold them by thy gracious Providence, to make them happy in me and in all who belong to their family. Let thy goodness follow them continually here, and reward them with eternal happiness beyond the grave.

Blessed guide of my youth! to thee I am indebted for all the favours which I enjoy. Assist me to become thy child, to follow after thy friendship as the greatest of all blessings, and to dread displeasing thee as the greatest of all calamities. Help me, as I grow in stature, to grow in wisdom and goodness, in favour with thee and with my fellow-men, like thy beloved Son Jesus Christ. I desire to understand and to rejoice in his gospel, to be his disciple and to walk as he walked; and I pray, that, after this short life on earth, I may be exalted with him for ever and ever. Amen.

6.

A PRAYER FOR A HUSBAND OR WIFE.

MOST merciful and gracious God! I look up unto thee who rulest over heaven and earth, and desire to adore thee as my Guardian and Guide. It is thou who settest the solitary in families; domestic life is thine institution; and thou hast pronounced marriage to be honourable in all. Called to this state by thy Providence, I beseech thee to make me sensible of its duties, and to dispose me to fulfil them with a perfect heart and a willing mind. Let me ever act upon the conviction, that the covenant, into which I have entered with the chosen companion of my life, has been made in thy sacred presence, and that my vows of fidelity and affection have been witnessed by thee the righteous Judge. Enable me to live as a

Christian in this relation, and to put away from me whatever would interrupt the pleasure and improvement which it is adapted to yield. Give me grace to correct what is wrong in my dispositions, to govern my passions, to be a severe censor of myself, but never to exact or expect too much from the friend and partner of my days. Assist me to become a blessing to *him* (*her*), a sharer of *his* joys, a consoler of *his* sorrows, and a helper to *him* in all the changes of the world. Grant that we may live together in love and peace, exercising forbearance with each other's infirmities, serving and rejoicing in thee, and carrying our regard for each other beyond this fleeting and perishable world. Grant, that in our dwelling, as in the tabernacle of the righteous, the voice of salvation may be heard; that we may keep a strict watch over ourselves and all who depend upon us; that we may suffer no vice to go unreprieved, or to remain in our house persisted in and unamended; and that all of us may cultivate a cheerful and obliging temper, and discharge our respective duties in quietness and contentment. By living together in virtue and holiness here, may we be fitted for perfect felicity in heaven; and be united together, at last, in indissoluble friendship, through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

7.

PRAYER FOR A PARENT.

ALMIGHTY God, Creator of men! from thee cometh every good and perfect gift. Thou hast given me children, and inspired my heart with ardent affection for them. Thou hast committed them to my care, and commanded me to educate them as Christians, as intelligent and im-

mortal beings. O make me fully sensible, I entreat thee, of the solemnity and importance of this charge; and give me thy gracious assistance, that I may train up my offspring in the way in which they ought to go. Enable me to entertain abiding convictions of the value of good instruction and the necessity of early religious impressions. Enlighten and direct me in the choice of proper means for cultivating pious and virtuous principles in their tender minds. Make me constant and faithful in sowing in their hearts the incorruptible seed of divine truth, that they may love religion early, and partake of thy divine nature. Increase my solicitude to set before them the pattern of a holy and good life; and never suffer me to forget, that what I say and do cannot fail to influence the formation of their temper and character. Preserve me from the extremes of impatience and undue severity, and of excessive indulgence and misguided fondness. Direct me to the most rational and salutary expressions of my love to them; and help me to adapt my conduct to their several dispositions. And while I study to bring them forward on the stage of action with those advantages which are suitable to their condition, let me always remember, that the care of the soul is the one thing needful, and let it be my highest concern to prepare them for eternity and heaven.

Gracious God! save me, I pray thee, from the most grievous calamity which a parent can feel, that of beholding children vicious and miserable. Protect and bless those, for whom my heart beats with the tenderest anxiety; and let them never be led astray by wicked customs and examples. Whatever thou mayest deny me, O grant that I may see them walking in the truth, adorned with innocence, virtue and piety. Vouchsafe to forgive any errors in my conduct towards them, and to supply all my

deficiencies. When I shall be removed hence let me die with the consciousness that I have not wilfully neglected my duty to them. And in the great day of the resurrection and judgment, grant that we may be found together before thy throne, and that I may be enabled to say: Here am I, O God, and the children which thou hast given me.— I ask for these mercies in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord and Master. Amen.

8.

A PRAYER FOR A PERSON IN PROSPERITY.

BOUNTIFUL Benefactor! all that man possesses or enjoys proceeds from thy munificence. To thy sovereign goodness I am indebted for all the advantages of my condition. Thou hast furnished me with many temporal blessings, and with the means of increasing my own happiness and the happiness of others. Preserve thy servant, I beseech thee, from being high-minded and trusting in uncertain riches. Preserve me from the inordinate love of the good things which thou hast bestowed upon me, from every unlawful or intemperate pleasure, from all contempt of my fellow-men. Preserve me from the blindness and infatuation of such as take this world for their portion; and let me not be numbered among those fools, whose table is a snare to them and whose prosperity destroys them. Fill my heart with love and gratitude to thee, my Father, whose Providence has raised me to my present state; and give me a deep and lively sense of the account which I must render at thy bar. Teach me to honour thee with my substance; to employ it in a rational and useful

118 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

manner; and as a good steward, to minister thy gifts to others. Direct me in the most effectual way to relieve the poor, the sick, and the wretched; to vindicate the cause of innocence; and to advance the interests of truth, virtue, religion, and public order. In my communications to the necessities of my fellow-men, preserve me from the weakness and guilt of pride and ostentation; and let me always remember, that thou lovest a cheerful giver. If it shall please thee, O Lord, either to increase or take away any of thy gifts, let it be my chief joy to serve thee, and my constant prayer, that thou wilt lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. If in thy Providence I am to be deprived of any temporal advantages, prepare me to meet the change with resignation. May I receive every allotment, whether prosperous or adverse, with Christian composure and fortitude; and, when thou shalt call me from this state of change and trial, may I be permitted to participate in that inheritance which is promised to thy saints.

My soul relies entirely upon thy mercy in Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might be made rich. Through him be glory unto thee for ever and ever. Amen.

9.

A PRAYER for a person suffering poverty or great losses.

GREAT and adorable God! thou rulest over the armies of heaven, and thou distributest thy blessings among men, as it seemeth good in thy sight. Thou makest poor, and makest rich; thou bringest low, and liftest up. Thou hast seen fit in thine infinite wisdom, to visit me with adversity and

to exercise me in a humble state. But thy good Providence has preserved me hitherto, has saved me from overwhelming want, has given me many of the blessings of this life, and has set before me the sweet hope of a better world. I would be grateful for what I enjoy; and I desire to acquiesce in thy dispensations, and not to indulge discontent on account of those things which thou withholdest or takest away.

Direct me, I beseech thee, in the use of honest means to repair my losses and to obtain a more comfortable subsistence: but, whether I obtain it or not, thy will be done. Thou alone knowest, if greater plenty would prove a blessing, or a snare to me and mine. Make me perfect in my submission, O Lord; cleanse my heart from sinful affections; and grant that I may be rich in faith and an heir of thy promises. Reward, I pray thee, those benefactors, who have been instruments in thy hand for doing me good. In every trouble let me experience, that thou art nigh unto them that put their trust in thee. Whilst I continue in straitened circumstances, preserve me from unlawful methods of supplying my necessities, from taking thy name in vain, and from asking with anxious distrustful thoughts, what shall I eat, or what shall I drink, or wherewith shall I be clothed. May I never feel envy at the sight of the great; and rather choose to endure every bodily hardship, than to suffer the evil of spiritual poverty. May the example of Jesus, who was despised of men, who suffered hunger and thirst, and who had not where to lay his head, reconcile me to my condition. May it be enough for me, that I can please thee and hold fast my integrity. Whatever be my lot here, may I be enabled to lay up treasures in heaven, and finally be received into it, through the media-

tion of that Saviour, who was made perfect through sufferings and is now set down at thy right hand; Amen.

10.

A PRAYER FOR A WIDOW.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, I fly to thee for that consolation which I need, and humble myself under thy mighty hand. Thou givest, and thou takest away; and without thy permission not a hair of our heads can fall to the ground. Thou hast been pleased to remove from me the husband of my affectionate choice, my support and comfort under the labours and anxieties of this mortal life. God of compassion, leave me not a victim to sorrow; and, though thou hast not forbidden me to mourn, let me not mourn like those who are without Christian hope. I desire to cast all my cares upon thy good Providence; assured, that I can never be destitute, whilst thou art my helper, or miserable, whilst I have thee for my portion. Whatever outward blessings thou mayest be pleased to deny me, may I never be deprived of the comfort of thy love. Vouchsafe, I pray thee, to raise up friends to assist me in my exigencies, and to counsel me to manage my affairs with discretion. Taught by painful experience, let me never forget what instability attends all earthly enjoyments. Give me grace to behave with propriety and suitably to my condition; that I may be enabled at all times to look with comfort to thee as my friend, my father, my life, my deliverer. (To thy tender mercy I commend the beloved children whom thou hast given me.) To thy direction I would entirely submit; into thy hands I resign all my interests in time and eternity; and my soul would triumph in

the exalted and assured hope of being eternally happy with all the objects of my affection, thro' thy grace in Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

11.

A PRAYER FOR A SERVANT.

O GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth! it is the ordination of thy good Providence, that there should be various stations and conditions in the world. It is thou, who appointest unto each the circumstances in which he is placed; and I rejoice, that with thee there is no respect of persons, and that, whether men be high or low in society, all are thy children, all are furnished with the means of pleasing thee and becoming happy. I would cheerfully submit to thy unerring direction; and desire, with a contented and thankful heart, to accept of the portion which thou givest me. Establish me, I beseech thee, in the persuasion, that my present situation is good for me; and give me grace to reflect, that every state of life has its peculiar advantages and trials. Help me to cherish a meek and humble temper, and to imitate my blessed Master, who took upon him the form of a servant and condescended to the meanest offices, that he might set his disciples an example. Help me to discharge the obligations incumbent upon me, with faithfulness and zeal, from a principle of obedience to thee my Judge, knowing that thou seest my inmost thoughts, and that whatsoever good thing any one doeth the same shall he receive at thy hands. Assist me to adorn my Christian vocation by a careful, diligent, respectful, and peaceable behaviour, by the strictest sobriety and honesty, and by a solicitude not to

122 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

waste the goods of those with whom I live, nor to mispend that time which I am bound to devote to their service. Make me duly grateful for every benefit which I receive; and let me patiently suffer the inconveniences which attend my lot. If it should please thee, O thou supreme Disposer of events, to make my outward condition more prosperous; let me improve it well. But, whatever thou shalt order, let me be solicitous, above all things, to obtain the forgiveness of my sins and to seek thy kingdom above; that I may be exalted to it after death, through thy great mercy in Jesus Christ my Redeemer. Amen.

12.

A PRAYER BEFORE A JOURNEY.

ALMIGHTY God, I raise my heart to thee as the Father and Preserver of men, and rejoice, that I cannot go where thou art not present as the Ruler of nature, as the Guardian of the righteous, as the Hearer of prayer. Thine eye is continually upon me, and thy good Spirit conducts thy children through every stage of their pilgrimage. I commend myself, O Lord, to the care of thy Providence, in the journey upon which I am entering; humbly beseeching thee to defend me from evil, to preserve me from all temptations to sin, and to prosper me in my lawful designs. To thy holy keeping I commit (my family and) my friends; and I pray, that, if it be thy will, they may be blessed in body and in soul, that I may return to them in due season in safety, that I may have a fresh occasion to praise thy name, and that we may long live together, to enjoy the pleasures of domestic life, and to manifest our thankfulness for all thy mercies. Hear my petitions, O thou God

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS. 123

of compassion ; and let me rejoice in thy grace and favour through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

13.

A PRAYER FOR A PERSON GOING TO SEA.

O Eternal and most merciful Jehovah, the Refuge and Protector of the sons of men : I lift up mine eyes unto thee, from whom alone cometh my help. Thou art the God of the sea, as well as of the dry land. Thou spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the ocean. At thy command, winds and storms arise ; and, at thy word, the waves are still. Support and preserve me, Almighty Father, I beseech thee, when embarked on the great deep. Guard me from its dangers, from sickness, from the violence of enemies, and from every evil to which I may be exposed. Save me, above all, from that greatest of evils, the commission of sin and the forfeiture of thy friendship. Let me not utter thy name, but with the greatest reverence ; nor forget, that to thee I owe my security, and that thou holdest my soul in life. May I see thy works and wonders in all the objects I behold ; and fortify my heart, in seasons of peril, not by blind courage or brutal insensibility, but by living a godly, righteous, and sober life, and by placing unbounded confidence in thy wisdom and goodness. May it please thee to give success to my undertaking, to conduct me in safety to the haven where I would be, and to bring me back with a grateful sense of thy mercies, and with an invincible determination to spend all my days to thy glory, through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

14.

THANKSGIVING for a safe return from
travelling by land or by water.

O Most gracious and all-powerful God, whose mercy is over all thy works, and who alone makest men to dwell in safety: I praise thy holy name, that thou hast been pleased to preserve me and to bring me back to my habitation in peace. Thou hast defended me by thy Providence from perils and death. I rejoice in thy goodness, and give thanks unto thee with my whole heart. O help me to manifest my thankfulness, by employing the life, which thou hast preserved, in a diligent obedience to thy commandments; and enable me at all times to cherish and exercise a filial trust in that paternal love, of which I have had continual experience. Pardon of thine infinite goodness whatever has been wrong in my conduct. Let me not forget, that I am but a sojourner here, and that I have no abiding place on earth. Let me ardently desire that better and heavenly country, for which all my present changes are intended to prepare me. And wherever I am, or whatever I may do, whilst I continue in this world, let me become more and more qualified for the blessedness of that city which hath foundations, through the riches of thy grace in Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

15.

A PRAYER for a person engaging in any
important business.

GREAT and merciful God, I look up unto thee, who teachest man knowledge, and givest both

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS. 125

the skill and the power to accomplish useful purposes. Thou art my Guide, and my Help; and without thee I can do nothing. Prosperity and adversity are dispensed by thee; and thou alone seest what is good for thy creatures. With submission to thy will, I implore thy blessing upon the work which is before me. Give me discretion and understanding to direct me. Preserve me from presumption, imprudence, indolence, and a confident expectation of success. Teach me to use with diligence and caution the means, which thou art pleased to afford me for the accomplishment of this design. Enable me, especially, I beseech thee, to maintain integrity and a good conscience. May I form no plan and engage in no enterprize, that may endanger the property, the comfort, or the virtue of my fellow-men; but habitually dread and fly from every thing, which may injure my neighbour. May I always act under the influence of the truth, that thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity, and that thou wilt reward every man according to his deeds. May I never fall into the temptations and snares of those, whose only aim is to be rich: but follow after justice, faith, love, patience and meekness; and have the witness in my own heart, that godliness with contentment is great gain. Should it please thee to crown my efforts with success, may I be duly thankful to thee and make a worthy use of thy favours. Should disappointment await me, may I submit with resignation, bless thy name, and trust in thy Providence. Whatever be the event, O Lord, do thou keep me in the path of duty, in thy fear and thy love. Let me perform all things according to the directions of that blessed Redeemer, whose follower I desire to be. And, finally, vouchsafe to receive me into thy everlast-

126 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

ing kingdom through thine unspeakable love in Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

16.

A PRAYER for a person under sufferings occasioned by the injustice or malice of others.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! I lift my heart unto thee, the refuge of the oppressed, the Friend and Patron of all thine upright servants. I bless thee, that no malice of men can rob me of thy love, and that, whatever I may suffer, thou hast encouraged me to put my trust in thy name. Let it please thee, heavenly Father, to protect me by thy power and to guide me by thy wisdom. If it appear good in thy sight, prosper my lawful endeavours to guard against injuries, and to secure that honest reputation, which is connected with usefulness in society. Should my exertions be unavailing, let me be comforted by the persuasion, that my witness is in heaven and my record on high. Help me to inspect my heart, and to review my life with the greatest seriousness, that I may see if there be any evil way in me; and do thou, the God of mercy, forgive all my forsaken sins, and enable me to become faultless and acceptable to thee. Pardon, I pray thee, all who have done or wished ill to me, and change their tempers and conduct. Give me grace to follow in all respects that Saviour, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered, threatened not, but committed himself to thee the righteous Judge, and implored the salvation even of his murderers. And, after faithfully doing and suffering thy will on earth, grant that I may be united with him in

heaven, praise thee for all the wonderful ways of thy Providence, and triumph in thy grace for ever and ever. Amen.

17.

A PRAYER for a person exposed to considerable perils or pains.

O GOD, the refuge and strength of thy children! behold in mercy thy feeble and dependent creature, who flies to thee for assistance and protection. I have had much experience of thy goodness in every stage and condition of life, and in every affliction thy mighty hand has sustained me. Let it please thee to continue thy compassion, and to uphold me in every hour of danger. Preserve me from all distressing fears, and establish my confidence in thy wise and gracious government. When my sorrows are enlarged, make haste for my deliverance, and bring me out of all my troubles, if it seem good to thee. In the midst of any pains which I may be appointed to endure, let my patience be perfected and my fortitude be supported by thy promises and the example of thy Son. And though my heart and my flesh should fail, be thou, O God, the strength of my heart; and vouchsafe to give me the portion of those, who shall be raised to the unfading joy and glory of heaven, through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

18.

A PRAYER FOR A SICK PERSON.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made! I desire

humbly to own and to reverence thy hand in my present affliction. May my bodily suffering make my heart better, and lead me more justly to value health and strength, and to employ them to nobler purposes than I have done, if this sickness shall not be unto death.

With submission to thy will, I pray for the removal of my disorder and for the perfect restoration of my health. Endue me with resignation, patience, and meekness, under the pain of disease and the irksomeness of confinement. Above all, prepare me for death. Blot out my numerous imperfections and sins by thine infinite mercy in Christ Jesus. Purify my heart, and make it the seat of faith, charity, and hope. Dispose and help me to set my house in order, and to do whatever is necessary in regard to my great change. And, when thou removest me hence, grant me an entrance into that world, where the inhabitants shall no more say, I am sick.

Into thy hands, heavenly Father, I commit myself, desiring, that no increase of pain may produce repining, that I may be numbered with those who love thee, and that I may find by experience all things and this sickness especially working my spiritual good. In every alteration, let thy promises be precious to my soul, that I may come off a conqueror through thy blessed Son, and sing thy praises for ever and ever. Amen.

19.

ANOTHER PRAYER for a sick person.

O LORD my God, who givest life and breath and all things to thy creatures, and who hast not thought even a crown of everlasting life too much to promise to thy children: thou wilt not

PRAVERS FOR INDIVIDUALS. 129

deny me what is needful for my body and soul, in my passage thro' this world to that of honour and immortality. I would raise my heart unto thee with confidence in thine infinite compassion. Establish, I beseech thee, in my soul the belief, that thou dost not willingly grieve the children of men, but intendest good to me by this thy fatherly correction. Wherein soever I have neglected thee or committed any offence against thy laws, make me deeply sensible of it and heartily sorrowful for all my transgressions. Mercifully accept my earnest desires of forgiveness, and prosper my serious resolutions to live more circumspectly and righteously in the time to come. Assist me, gracious Lord, to give a proof of the sincerity of my present prayers and professions, by patiently submitting to this distressing dispensation of thy Providence, and by cheerfully and meekly bearing whatever thou shalt inflict. Fill my mind with reverence of thy wisdom and authority, with a thankful remembrance of all thy past mercies, with an entire reliance on thy goodness, and with a supreme solicitude to delight in doing thy will. Thou, O God, art the author of every remedy, and thy power alone can check disease. I beseech thee to bless the means which are used for the recovery of my health; that I may live, if it be thy will, to perform my duties with greater care. But, if thou hast otherwise appointed, accept, I pray thee, of thine unspeakable goodness, the sincerity of my repentance, according to the covenant to which thou hast called me in Jesus Christ thy Son. Help me to finish the work which thou hast given me to do, and without delay to make every necessary preparation; that, when the time of my dissolution draws near, I may have nothing else to do, but to resign myself to thee. If I have injured any, I would be reconciled unto them, and

130 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

die in peace with all men. And when I shall suffer the last conflicts of nature, grant, great God, that I may keep my mind steadfastly fixed on that Saviour, who, after he had shed his blood for the remission of sin, led the way thro' the grave unto heaven. And through him be everlasting praises presented unto thee from all the children of Adam. Amen.

20.

A PRAYER for the head of a family, under apprehensions of death, in active life.

GREAT and adorable God, in whose hands my time and fate are reposed! hear the prayers of thine unworthy servant, and fortify my soul under the distresses which I feel. In the language of my Saviour, who suffered for me, leaving me an example, I would say: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Spare me, I beseech thee, if it be agreeable to the purposes of thine infinite wisdom, that I may provide for my family and bring up my children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But, if thou callest me hence, be thou, O God, the husband of my companion and the father of my offspring. Let thy kind Providence be their stay and support in this world, and thy love their inheritance in the world to come. Graciously supply their wants; protect them from injury; counsel them under every perplexity; and let them never by disobedience forfeit thy fatherly care. If I be no more in the world, holy Father! keep those whom thou hast given me; sanctify them through thy truth; and

grant us a happy meeting in thy glorious presence above, through the infinite riches of thy grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

21.

A PRAYER for a sincere Christian, when there appears but small hope of his recovery.

GOD of the spirits of all flesh, Source of life and happiness, gracious Father and Friend! thou hast brought me to the gates of death, and the hour of my departure draweth nigh. Thou hast watched over me from my entrance into the world; thy tender mercy has followed me all my days; and thou hast assured me of an incorruptible inheritance beyond the grave. Accept the thanks of thine unworthy servant for all thy loving-kindness. Accept my thanks for the gift of thy Son, for the promise of forgiveness, for the precious hope of immortality. Thou hast gladdened and consoled me through the whole of my career with countless blessings and mercies, although I have not merited the smallest. Pardon, of thine infinite goodness, my many imperfections and sins; and be pleased to accept my feeble, but sincere, endeavours to serve thee. Thou callest me away; and I am ready to follow. I rejoice, that all my conflicts and pains are drawing to a close. I rejoice, that I shall soon be privileged to pay thee more worthily that homage, which is due to thee. I know, that in thy presence there is fulness of joy and pleasure for evermore. Keep me, I beseech thee, my heavenly Father, in humble dependance on thy rich and free grace in my blessed Redeemer. Help me to suffer patiently like him, while I am visited with sickness, and like him to say at last

132 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

with immoveable confidence, "Father into thy hand
 "I commit my spirit." Comfort the objects of my
 affection, when I am removed from the world; pro-
 vide for them by thy paternal love; preserve them
 for thine everlasting kingdom. There may I find
 all for whom I am now particularly concerned, be
 united with every one whom I may have thought
 my foe, and triumph in thy redemption with all
 the children of Adam. Living or dying, I am thine;
 and thy will be done. O death, where is thy sting?
 O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God,
 who giveth me the victory through my Lord Jesus
 Christ. Amen.

22.

*A PRAYER for a person recovered from alarm-
 ing sickness.*

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is
 within me, bless his holy name. Bless the
 Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
 who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all
 thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruc-
 tion, and crowneth thee with loving-kindness and
 with tender mercies. I praise thee, Great God,
 that, although thou hast chastened me, thou hast
 not given me over unto death. I praise thee, that
 thy powerful arm has arrested the progress of the
 destroyer and helped me out of all my troubles. I
 thank thee for every comfort and alleviation of
 pain, with which thou hast been pleased to furnish
 me, and especially for the love of my friends and
 the promises of thy gospel. I acknowledge thine
 inexpressible goodness in restoring me from the
 brink of the grave and from the anguish of suffer-
 ing, to endeared connections, to enlivened hopes, to

new opportunities and increased motives for cultivating Christian affections, for abounding in good works, and for laying up treasures in heaven.

O God, let not these opportunities be neglected by me, but be wisely improved to thy glory.

I have experienced thy power and compassion. May I ever live in the exercise of a grateful confidence in both, and be duly sensible of my total dependance upon thy Providence and government.

I have been brought to feel the realities of the world to come, the worth of thy favour, the value of a conscience void of offence. Almighty God! let the convictions which I have had of them never be extinguished in my breast. Enable me at all times to entertain that humble contrition for my sins and that penitential sense of my need of thy mercy, which the nearness of death was instrumental in producing. Help me to appreciate, as I ought, eternal things, and to do all that thou requirest, in order that I may secure thine approbation and friendship.

Thou hast enabled me to realize the vanity and uncertainty of the world. Preserve me from attaching too much importance to its pleasures, honours, and possessions; and assist me constantly to remember, how rapidly it is passing away.

Thou hast taught me, by sickness, the worth of friendship; and the offices of kindness, which have been performed for me, have, with thy blessing, cheered, supported, and kept me alive. My God, let me never be insensible of the love of those, whose hearts thou hast warmed with good-will towards me. Make me ready to return their benevolence on every occasion. Let me be softened with humanity towards all that suffer; and let me never behold a sick-bed without sympathy and charity.

134 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

It was thy gospel, O thou God of all consolation in Christ Jesus, from which my hope was derived, when the shadows of death appeared to encompass me. The assurances which it contains of thy forbearance and mercy, and of eternal life through thy Son, were the only support of my spirit. O give me grace to cling with faster hold than ever to this rock of salvation, to abide in the love of Jesus, to follow him undismayed, and constantly to hope through him for redemption and celestial happiness.

Preserver of my being! thou hast now shown me, how frail I am, hast given me a striking proof of the precariousness of life; and I know, that, ere long, I shall bid farewell to all whom I now behold. May I be better prepared, than I have been, for my departure hence. May I walk by faith, and not by sight. May I be concerned to be always ready, and to be found in that frame of mind which will enable me to welcome death as the messenger of peace.

Hear my prayers, I beseech thee; forgive my sins, and make me thine, for evermore, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

23.

A PRAYER for an awakened sinner.

O THOU righteous and holy Being, from whom no secrets can be hid! I am ashamed, and blush to lift up my face to thee. Mine iniquities are increased over my head, and my trespass is grown up unto the heavens! I have slighted thine authority, forgotten the one thing needful, rebelled against thee, my Sovereign and my Father, and violated laws which are perfectly holy, just, and good. Unthankful for thy mercies, and despising thine instructions, I have cast off thy fear, pursued the

pleasures of sin, and nearly destroyed myself. My example has corrupted and emboldened others in vice. I tremble, while I think of the injury which I may have done to my companions. I tremble, while I reflect upon the vile return which I have made to thee the best of beings, and upon the gulf of ruin towards which I have been approaching. Hadst thou entered into judgment with me, and rewarded me according to my deserts, how awful would have been my condition! Wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me and break the power of my evil habits? God of compassion, be merciful to me a sinner. Unworthy as I am, cast me not away from thy presence; deny me not the grace which thou hast encouraged me to implore; help, Lord, or I perish; save my sinking soul, and give me repentance unto life. Impute not unto me, I beseech thee, my transgressions; accept my humiliation and remorse; and grant me to say from experience, with thee there is plenteous forgiveness and redemption. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Let not evil be present with me, when I would do good. Let me no longer run into the danger which I see. Let not unbelief and passion and temptation prevail against the convictions, which thou hast given me, of the malignity and danger of sin, of the vanity of the world, of the worth of the soul, and of the awfulness of eternity. Preserve me from being fatally hardened and blinded. And though I have dishonoured thee and depraved myself; Almighty God, let thy Spirit operate upon my mind, and raise me up from the death of sin unto a life of righteousness.

Lord of life! cut me not off from the land of the living, until I am fit for death and judgment. Spare me to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Give me grace to become such as I ought to be, to coun-

teract the evil effects of the criminal course I have pursued, to make restitution to those I have injured, and to teach transgressors thy ways. Inspire me with a dread of relapsing into those iniquities, which have hidden from me the light of thy countenance. Whatever else may happen, whatever my vices and crimes may produce to me, let not the religious impressions of this moment be ever forgotten.

O Lord, I am guilty and deserving of thy wrath : but thou hast revealed to me, that thou wilt not despise the sacrifices of a broken spirit. My whole reliance is on thy mercy in Jesus Christ, whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, and who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto thee through him. In the name of this Mediator I offer up my prayers; and I desire to glory in his cross and to be accepted through him now and evermore. Amen.

24.

ANOTHER PRAYER for an awakened sinner.

O THOU infinitely great and glorious Jehovah! I would raise my heart to thee as the all-wise and righteous Governor of heaven and earth. From the habitation of thy holiness, thou beholdest all the children of men. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity, wheresoever thou seest it; neither can evil dwell with thee.

I am convinced, great God, that thou hast an absolute right to my homage and allegiance. Thou art my Maker and my Sovereign; thy laws are just and good in themselves, and adapted to answer the most beneficial purposes. Thou hast written thy will in the book of nature and the volume of revelation, and enforced it with the most solemn and awful sanctions. Thou hast set life and death,

heaven and hell before me; my body and my soul, with all their faculties and interests, are every moment in thy hand. And yet, in how many instances have I revolted from thee, and disregarded thy salutary counsels and commands! how far has my heart been from thy service and thine ordinances! what corrupt desires and passions have I harboured! what an excessive fondness for the world have I discovered! how foolishly have I preferred temporal gratifications and pursuits to eternal joys! how greatly must my behaviour and example have injured my fellow-creatures! and what distress, disorder, and remorse, have I prepared by my vices for my own soul!—And, O thou most compassionate Father and Friend of the human race, how much more aggravated are my offences, when considered as committed against the experience I have had of thy loving kindness, against the endearing ties of gratitude, as well as against the obligations of duty and interest! Thou hast nourished and brought me up as thy child; and yet I have rebelled against thee. Thou hast been my Guardian, my Guide, my unwearied Benefactor; to thee I am indebted for all my worldly comforts; to thy rich and free grace I owe the discoveries and invitations of the gospel, the offers of pardon, and the hope of eternal felicity through the mediation of Christ Jesus thy Son. And yet, how have I abused thy goodness, misapplied my advantages, despised thy grace, and rejected the offers of life and salvation!

Blessed God, I confess my guilt; I am sensible, that thy favour is life; I feel that I must perish, if I remain far from thee. Have mercy upon me, miserable offender; and teach me so to think on my ways, as to make haste and not delay to keep thy commandments. I adore thy forbearance in lengthening out the space given me for repentance,

138 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

though I have so long neglected this great and necessary work; and I pray, that I may no longer draw back from the yoke of duty. Give me, O Lord, abiding views of the shortness and uncertainty of life, of the growing power of evil habits, and of the vanity of expecting greater assistances of thy Holy Spirit, if I resist those which thou hast already afforded me. Enable me carefully to cherish every serious impression that may be made on my mind, and diligently to improve all the helps with which I am favoured. Dispose me to seek thee whilst thou mayest be found, and to call upon thee whilst thou art near. Assist me to learn that lesson which I am so slow to learn, and inspire me with a taste for the pleasures of religion and devotion. Spiritualize my affections; ennoble my pursuits; quicken my desires and endeavours; and grant, that with full purpose of heart I may cleave unto thee the Lord.

Gracious God, though I have sinned against light and knowledge, and have justly deserved to forfeit all thy friendship, yet I would rejoice that with thee my help is found. Thou art ready to receive the penitent, and art waiting to be gracious to them. Thou hast sent thine only-begotten Son to seek and to save those that are lost. Reconcile me to thyself, and forgive and accept of me, for thy mercy's sake in him. And grant, that, being made free from sin and become a servant to thee, I may possess peace of heart, have my fruit unto holiness, and in the end receive the unspeakable and unmerited gift of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

25. *A PRAYER for a person, recovered from a negligent mind, to a serious view of religious truth.*

AL MIGHTY and most merciful God, the just and equitable Ruler of the children of men! behold in mercy thy frail and forgetful child; who turns unto thee with a penitent and humble heart. Blessed be thy name, that I am brought to see, how careless and unprofitable I am. Blessed be thy name, that, though I have been greatly inconsiderate and negligent, thy Providence and grace have prevented me from falling into presumptuous and atrocious transgressions. But, while I thank thee, my heavenly Father, for the restraints which have been laid upon me; I confess with shame, that I have often been unmindful of what I owe to thee and thy beloved Son, and that I have not been duly influenced by the principles of thy sacred gospel. I have not been diligent in advancing the welfare of my fellow-men, have often lost sight of the concerns of my own soul and of the world to come, have been estranged from the worship and the love of thee, have not been studious to govern my heart, to rise above grovelling views, and to live by faith in him who loved me and gave himself for me.—But I purpose before thee, who knowest my heart with all its frailties, no longer to be like those who are without God in the world. And I beseech thee, from whom wisdom and virtue proceed, to forgive the levity, the vanity, the folly, the worldly mind, with which I have been chargeable, and to inspire me with that Christian temper which I have neglected to cultivate. O give me fervent desires and abiding resolutions to serve and love thee, and to press towards the mark

110 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Excite me to diligence in reading, meditation, and prayer. Assist me to delight in the ordinances of thy house, and in the study of thy holy word. Arm me against the influence of vain customs, and of careless companions. Lead me to make the regulation of my own mind and the practice of a pious and virtuous life, my chief care and business. Help me to keep the instructions and the model of my blessed Redeemer habitually before my eyes, to confess his name without fear before men; to follow no other maxims but his, to labour and cherish concern for his glorious cause, and to employ my powers and possessions in the service of society according to his precepts. I would no longer live, with my wishes and endeavours all centering here; but as a candidate for immortality, as a being who expects a judgment and an eternal state, as the disciple of a risen Redeemer who will come again and take his faithful followers to his own heavenly glory.

Gracious God, be pleased to pardon my sins, to accept this act of self-devotion, and to establish my holy purposes. I have sworn, that I will keep thy righteous statutes. Do thou give me strength to fulfil my vows, to grow in grace; and let nothing ever be able to separate me from the love of thee in Christ Jesus my Lord. Amen.

26.

A PRAYER for a sincere penitent, distressed by the difficulties which attend his Christian improvement.

FATHER of mercies, whose strength upholds the weak! I come to thee for protection and

assistance, and rejoice that thou hast encouraged me to seek thy face. I have experienced that thou art good, and praise thee for what thou hast already done for my soul. From what threatening dangers has thy paternal love delivered me! what everlasting gratitude is due to thee for opening the eyes of my mind, and affecting my heart with a sense of my duty to thee! what tribute can I offer, expressive of that divine goodness, to which it is owing, that I am not blind and dead in trespasses and sins, and that I have not been cut off from this probationary state, unconcerned about the fate which awaits me!

O God, I adore thee as my Father and my Saviour, and bless thee for the merciful promises which thou hast given me through thy Son. But I confess and lament, before thee, my weakness and unfruitfulness. I lament the sins, which so easily beset me. I lament the difficulties in discharging my obligations, which are the sad effects of my former carelessness and wickedness. I lament the wanderings of my mind, the coldness of my affections, the power which past follies and transgressions still exercise too frequently over my imagination. I confess, that I deserve to suffer, and that thou art righteous in all thy ways and doings. But I beseech thee, Almighty God, to strengthen me by thy Spirit in the inner man, and to preserve me from fainting under the tribulations which attend me. O bend my will more perfectly to thine; and let none of those things, which once subdued me, any longer prove a snare. Thou knowest, that I hunger and thirst after righteousness: give success, I pray thee, to my endeavours, my watchfulness, my supplications. Cleanse me from every pollution both of the mind and the flesh; and cause me to know, that blessed is the man who endureth temptation. Save me from pre-

112 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS

sumption and from despair of success. Teach me to labour with diligence, and to confide in thee. And grant me to realize, that wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and that the path of the righteous is like the morning-light, which shineth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

My soul looks for help unto thee, who art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think. And unto thee be glory by Christ Jesus, world without end. Amen.

27.

A PRAYER for an upright Christian, distressed by fears respecting his final acceptance and salvation.

O THOU, before whose eyes all things are naked and open, who triest the reins of the children of men! I fly to thee oppressed with sadness and fear. Thou hast invited the weary and heavy-laden to partake of mercy: receive me, thy sorrowful suppliant, and revive my fainting soul. Thou delightest not in the misery of thy creatures: heal thou the wounds of my heart. I confess, O my God, that my sins have deserved more grievous punishments than I feel, and that it would be impossible for me to abide thy strict inquisition: but I plead the wonderful expressions of thy love and compassion to the contrite and humble, which are contained in thy word. Hast thou not declared, that all thy thoughts are thoughts of peace, and not of evil? Hast thou not assured thy people, that, altho' a mother should forget her child, yet thou wilt not forget or forsake thine offspring? Hast thou not so loved the world as to give thine only-

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS. 143

begotten Son for us, and wilt thou not with him freely give us all things which we need?

O Lord, thou knowest my frame and rememberest that I am but dust. Thou art acquainted with my frailties and apprehensions. Thou seest, that, infirm and guilty as I am, my soul thirsteth for thee the living God, as the Hart panteth after the water brooks. Be pleased to forgive my sins, to pardon my despondency; and help me to serve thee with a quiet and cheerful heart. Remove my disease, whether of body or of mind, if this seem good to thine infinite wisdom: and forbid, that I should entertain one thought injurious to thee and dishonourable to the clemency of thy character as revealed in thy gospel. Preserve me from delusion; dispel my doubts; confirm my faith in thy promises; clothe me with the garments of salvation. Above all, I beseech thee to give me grace perfectly to do and to suffer thy will. Help me to bring forth more of the fruits of the Spirit; that I may have the evidence in my temper and life, that I am led by thy Spirit and am authorized to call thee Abba, Father. Whatever conflicts I may now have to sustain, let me persevere in well-doing with increasing zeal and delight, persuaded that thou art greater and better than my heart, and wilt not reject any that sincerely seek thy face through him whom thou hast appointed the Mediator of our race. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." Amen.

A PRAYER for a communicant, before the celebration of the Lord's supper.

SUPREMEY exalted and adorable God, unto whom all hearts are open! I desire to worship thee as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. I adore thine unspeakable goodness in raising up this great Deliverer from sin and death, for a benighted, guilty, and ruined world. I praise thee for the spiritual and heavenly blessings, which thou hast bestowed upon me through his mediation, crucifixion and resurrection. What gracious instructions flowed from his tongue! What spotless purity marked his life! What love and zeal filled his heart! With what patience and kindness did he seek those that were lost! What astonishing miracles attested his mission! What a miracle of benevolence was exhibited in his painful and bloody death on the cross! How triumphantly did he conquer the grave and ascend to thy throne in heaven! Gracious God, how complete is his redemption, how amazing thy benignity, how attracting and transporting the thought of my Saviour's compassion and victory! What could have been done for thy rebellious offspring, that has not been done? What light, what comfort, what encouragement, what hope can I need, which the gospel of Christ Jesus does not abundantly supply?

O thou who seest in secret! I confess that I am unworthy of my Christian privileges, and that I have not adorned my profession in all respects, as I ought to have done, by an holy walk and conversation. Who can tell, how oft he offendeth? My heart condemns me in many things; and I am grieved, when I consider, in how small a degree I

possess the spirit and temper of my Lord. Help thou me to examine and judge myself, that I may not be condemned by thee. Lead me, I beseech thee, to a full acquaintance with the state of my soul, and prepare me for the holy exercises to which I am called. Save me from all delusion, pride, and self-deceit. Forgive, of thine infinite goodness, every offence which I have committed; and accept the renewal, which I am about to make of my vows.

Thou invitest me to the memorial of my Saviour's dying love; and blessed be thy name for this means of enkindling and increasing my affection and gratitude to him. Take me into thy holy keeping, and grant that I may experience no distraction of mind. Let me not be an unfurnished guest, to whom it may be justly said, "how camest thou in hither, not having on a wedding garment?" Let me approach the ordinance, with penitence, thankfulness, and faith, with love and charity to all mankind. Eating the bread and drinking the cup, which Jesus instituted, let me embrace and hold fast the covenant of mercy, and find redemption through his blood. Direct me to profitable meditations upon what he said, did, and suffered; and let the remembrance of his love, his sacrifice, and his glory, comfort, support, and strengthen me, in life and death.

Heavenly Father! be thou with thy servant who ministers to me in the sanctuary, with my fellow-communicants, with all my Christian brethren, and with every human being. Dispose all, who encircle thine altar, to feel and to act as friends, partakers of the same grace, and heirs of one blissful inheritance through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A PRAYER for a communicant, after the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

FATHER of mercies, and God of love! thou hast caused thy goodness to pass before me this day. Follow with thy blessing what I have been permitted and enabled to perform, in obedience to the injunction of thy Son, my Lord. If thy pure eyes have seen any thing culpable in my religious services, I beseech thee to pardon me. Let not the pious reflections which have occupied my attention, or the purposes which I have formed, in the company of my fellow-worshippers, and in showing forth the death of Jesus, ever be strange to my heart.

I have avowed thee, the Lord, to be my God, engaging to keep thy commandments and to hearken to thy voice. I have confessed thy Son before men, publicly receiving his testimony, solemnly acknowledging him to be my divine Master and Guide, my Saviour and Forerunner in the path of holiness and glory.—O forbid, that I should ever make shipwreck of faith, by not holding fast a good conscience. Preserve me from the smallest degree of that spirit, which works in the children of disobedience. Preserve me from proving faithless to my vows, and from bringing reproach on the Christian name. Help me to follow the Lamb, whithersoever he goeth; to abide in him, the true vine; and to stand fast in the liberty wherewith he hath made his disciples free. Enable me at all times to remember his new command, that we should love one another, even as he has loved us. Save me from the shocking inconsistencies and the dreadful fate of those, who call him Lord, Lord, but unto whom he will say, “depart from me ye that work iniquity.” Raise my affections from

earth to heaven; and assist me to be steadfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Merciful Father, I have found that it is good for me to draw nigh unto the table of my crucified and exalted Redeemer. Make me habitually attentive to this cheering institution. While I thereby learn to value the Saviour and his gospel more, let me rejoice in the persuasion, that there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, and that through him we have mercy and the forgiveness of sin. May I be privileged to come with boldness to thy throne, in his name, and his peace keep my heart in every changing scene. May I regard it as my highest honour, to be his disciple and an instrument for advancing his kingdom among men. May I triumph in this, that my Lord, who was once dead, lives and reigns forever, and that where he is his faithful followers shall also be. When he comes to judge the world, may he not be ashamed of me, but receive me into his own mansions of love and joy.

Once more, O thou Parent of all! I implore thy blessing upon thy church universal, and upon the whole human family. Comfort every sorrowful soul. Bring into the way of truth all such, as have erred and gone astray. Convert all such, as are in the gall of bitterness and the bonds of iniquity. Lead all Christians to be careful to maintain good works. Let thy grace be multiplied upon the religious society of which I am a member, and upon the pastor of the flock. Let all, with whom I am connected, and who are dear to me, be enrolled in the book of life; and let them and me be brought to sing the praises of God and of the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

*A GENERAL PRAYER, which may be used
at any time.*

O GOD, the Maker and Governor of the world! I, thine unworthy servant, would appear before thee, under the deepest sense of thy perfections and of my total dependance upon thy Providence and grace. I rejoice that I am privileged to worship thee, whose glories are far exalted above all that I can conceive, and before whom the hosts of heaven bow down with the profoundest reverence. I adore thee as possessed of all-comprehending knowledge, unerring wisdom, unlimited power, impartial justice, unbounded goodness, unspotted purity, unchangeable truth and faithfulness. I acknowledge thee to be the giver of all good gifts, and the disposer of all events. I confess, that thy favour alone is life, and that I cannot be happy without thy love. I am sensible, that thou art the tenderest Father and best Friend to thy creatures, prescribing only such laws to them as are highly salutary, ever disposed to lead them to their true felicity, ready to promote and assist their sincere endeavours to obtain it, and constantly exercising thy perfections for this purpose. Precious is the thought of thee to all who are acquainted with thy character and who study to accomplish thy gracious designs. Worthy art thou of the homage, affection, and obedience of all intelligent beings in heaven and on earth.

I praise thee, O Lord, that, amidst the multitude of thy creatures and subjects, I am not forgotten and overlooked; but that thou knowest, and lovest, and providest for me, as thy child, with paternal care. I praise thee, that thou hast preserved me from many calamities and sufferings. I

thank thee for all the powers of my nature, for the satisfactions and comforts of society, for the kindness of my relations and friends, for every domestic enjoyment, for the measure of health and prosperity with which I am favoured, and for all those outward conveniences and advantages which thou hast been pleased to give me. I thank thee, that thou hast formed me after thine own image, made me free and intelligent, and destined me for an immortal existence. I bless thee for all the assistances which I have received for the cultivation of my mind, and for all the means of education and religion. Above all, I desire to bless thee for the mission and gospel of Christ Jesus, thy well-beloved and only-begotten Son. I bless thee for the satisfactory evidences he gave, that he was truly sent by thee for the salvation of the world. I bless thee for his divine instructions, for his perfect example, and for all his labours and sufferings. I bless thee for his humbling himself even to the death of the cross, and shedding his blood for the remission of our sins; for his resurrection from the grave, and for his entrance into heaven as our Captain and Forerunner. I bless thee for the effusion of the Holy Spirit upon his Apostles, for the propagation of his doctrines, and for the preservation of his church. How rich is the grace, which I have received through his mediation! How wonderfully hast thou provided for my improvement, my comfort, and my everlasting welfare! What can I render unto thee, in return for that mercy, to which alone it is to be ascribed, that I am not wandering in a land of darkness, superstition and idolatry, that I am not the victim of fear and despair? What gratitude do I owe to thy dear Son, who submitted to the most cruel death, that I might rejoice in the hope of thy compassion and in the as-

surance of eternal life and glory ! Never, O God, can I repay, never can I fully express or worthily praise thee for all that thou hast done for my soul, for all the benefits which thou art continuing to bestow upon me from day to day.

Encouraged, merciful Father, by the invaluable promises of my Lord and Saviour, I draw near unto thy throne, to intreat of thee the pardon of whatsoever thou hast seen amiss in me. I confess to thee, that my sins and infirmities are many and great, and that I could not expect any portion of thy favour, if thou shouldest be extreme to mark and to punish what is wrong. But it is the consolation and support of my mind, that thou hast sent Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, and that thou art pleased to accept the upright endeavours of the humble and penitent to reform whatever has been criminal in their hearts and conduct. Forgive, I beseech thee, every wilful thought, disposition, word, and deed, which has been displeasing in thy sight; and vouchsafe to justify me upon those terms, which thy holiness and mercy have laid down in the gospel. I do willingly and entirely forgive all, who may have injured or offended me. If I have done wrong to any, I am ready to make all possible reparation. I seriously renounce all communication with whatsoever thou hast forbidden, and devote myself to thy service and the performance of thy will. I am persuaded, that these are indispensable qualifications for thy favour; and earnestly beseech thee to give success to my purposes, by the influences of thy Spirit, and the dispensations of thy Providence.

May I never go astray from the truth as it is in Jesus, but seek for it with an impartial and unprejudiced mind, be delivered from those passions which hinder its discovery, and obey it from the

heart. May I be animated by that faith, which overcomes the world, which purifies the soul, and which works by love. May I be filled with that hope, which will not suffer me to be ashamed, but will cause me to run with patience the race set before me. May I be possessed of that charity, which is the end of the commandment, and without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. May I cherish a constant regard to thee as my Ruler and Judge, worship thee with a thankful and resigned temper, praise thee with gladness, and rejoice in thy protection. May I be concerned to resemble my honoured Master in every divine and amiable disposition, and imbibe his zeal, his devotion, his fortitude, his humility, his compassion, and benevolence. May I delight, like him, in doing good; and press forward with unremitting ardour towards the mark of the prize of my high calling.

My outward condition, O Lord, it is my happiness and duty to refer wholly to thy wisdom. With submission to thy will, I implore from thee those things which are necessary to the security and comfort of life; and pray, that I may be preserved from great calamities and afflictions, if this be consistent with thy gracious purposes. Lead me in that path, which thou seest to be best for me. Help me to become perfectly contented, to repose unlimited confidence in thy government, and to improve health and sickness, joy and sorrow, to thy glory. May I so pass through things temporal, as not to forget the things which are eternal. May I so use the world, as not to abuse it. Moderate in my desires for its good things, temperate in every lawful gratification, and patient under every disappointment, trial, or suffering, may I constantly aspire to a higher bliss than

any which can here be obtained, lay a good foundation against the time to come, and daily look forward to the glory which is about to be revealed to thy faithful servants. May I behold the approach of death with peace and satisfaction; and, when my course is finished, be removed from this mixed state of discipline to the land of unfading happiness and perfect love.

I praise thee, O God, that thou art the merciful Parent of all men; and I beseech thee to have compassion upon and to save every individual of the human family. Be pleased to bless my friends, to reward my benefactors, and to take into thy holy-keeping the family with which I am connected. Visit with thy light and comfort all who are afflicted with sickness and pain. Console and cheer all who are distressed in mind. Provide for the relief of those, who are suffering want. Pity the widow and orphan; gladden the hearts of such as mourn the loss of those they loved; hear the cries of the persecuted and oppressed; be nigh unto all, who are in circumstances of peril. Turn the ungodly to the love and fear of thy name; support and strengthen every upright soul; give rest and joy to every weary and heavy-laden sinner. Spread the gospel of Christ Jesus throughout the earth; put an end to all war, strife, tyranny, and injustice; and let every nation become virtuous, enlightened, and happy. Direct our rulers; preserve our liberties; prosper our citizens; assist us to become a righteous people, whom thou wilt bless and protect; and let all our institutions for the education of youth, and for the maintenance and diffusion of pure religion, be crowned with success.

Accept, O God, I beseech thee, these sentiments and desires of my heart, which I offer up.

in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ ; through whom I trust for the acceptance of my person, and all my sincere, but imperfect services. And unto thee be endless praise and glory. Amen.

E I N I S.